



## Committee Discusses, Introduces, and Passes IT Legislation



Subcommittee Vice Chairman Ben Ray Luján discusses the role information technology plays in driving our economic growth.

On [April 1](#), the Committee held a hearing to discuss the *Networking and Information Technology and Development Act of 2009*, or the *NITRD Act*. The NITRD program is a multi-agency research effort to ensure continued U.S. leadership in computing systems, advanced networking, software and other technologies.

On [April 22](#), Chairman Bart Gordon introduced [H.R. 2020](#), the *NITRD Act*. H.R. 2020 requires the development of a strategic plan, informed by industry and academia, that will create a vision for information technology R&D, fostering future technological breakthroughs.

“There has been breathtaking progress in the field of information technology—innovations like the Internet, open-source software and laptop computers—but I believe the best is yet to come. We need to foster innovation and technical advances to realize their full potential,” said **Gordon**.

On [April 29](#), H.R. 2020 favorably passed the Committee.

## Subcommittee Discuss Ways to Make Space Environment Safer

On [April 28](#), the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee held a hearing examine the challenges faced by civil and commercial space users as space traffic and debris in Earth orbit continue to increase.



The February 2009 collision between an Iridium Satellite-owned communications satellite and a defunct Russian Cosmos satellite highlighted the growing problem of space debris and the need to minimize the chances of in-space collisions. The surprise of this satellite collision ignited concern among Subcommittee Members.

Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords stresses the importance of maintaining a safe space environment.

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### Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the April edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter.

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Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,  
Chairman,  
U.S. House Committee

### [Additional Hearings in April :](#)

[April 22](#) — *Monitoring, Measurement and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions II: The Role of Federal and Academic Research and Monitoring Programs*

[April 23](#) — *The Role of the SBIR and STTR Programs in Stimulating Innovation at Small High-Tech Businesses*

[April 28](#) — *Pushing the Efficiency Envelope: R&D for High-Performance Buildings, Industries and Consumers*

[April 29](#) — *Full Committee Markup: HR 2020, HR 1736, and HR 1709*

[April 30](#) — *The Role of Science in Regulatory Reform*

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## Subcommittee Examines NOAA's Weather Satellite System

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On [April 23](#), the Energy and Environment Subcommittee held a hearing to review the National Ocean Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Weather Satellite System and the [GAO report](#), *Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES): Acquisitions Has Increased Costs, Reduced Capabilities, and Delayed Schedules*. NOAA depends on its GOES satellites to detect and track weather systems affecting the Western Hemisphere.



Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird discusses the GOES-R program.

## Committee Members Approved S&T Legislation

On [April 29](#), the Full Committee passed [H.R. 2020](#), the *Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009*, [H.R. 1736](#), the *International Science and Cooperation Act of 2009*, and [H.R. 1709](#), the *STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009*.

All three bills passed with bipartisan support and were reported favorably.

"Every day the GOES system provides us with invaluable information that helps protect people's lives and property," said **Baird**. "We need to keep in mind its cost, and in these tough economic times, it's important that we continue the program in a fiscally responsible manner."

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## House Approves Committee Legislation

On [April 22](#), the U.S. House of Representatives passed [H.R. 1580](#), the *Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development act*. H.R. 1580, introduced on March 18 by Chairman Bart Gordon, passed by voice vote. HR 1580 authorizes the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to reduce the volume of discarded electronic products in the U.S. through R&D and demonstration projects for product design, recycling and re-use.

"This is a step toward a better end for the millions of old cell phones, televisions, computers, and other electronic devices Americans discard every year. This bill invests in research to foster innovations to enable more efficient recycling, the selection of more environmentally friendly materials, better ways to educate consumers about electronics recycling, and methods to design products for easier disassembly and recycling," stated **Gordon**.



Chairman Bart Gordon authored H.R. 1580.

Also, on April 22, the House passed [H.R. 957](#), the *Green Energy Education Act of 2009*, introduced on February 10 by Committee Member Rep. Michael McCaul, by a vote of 411-6. On [April 23](#), the House passed [H.R. 1145](#), the *National Water Research and Development Initiative Act*. H.R. 1145, authored by Chairman Gordon, by a vote of 413 to 10.

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## Looking Ahead

Next week, the Committee will hold a Subcommittee markup and a Full Committee hearing to review the [federal R&D FY 2010 budget with Dr. John P. Holdren](#), Director of OSTP. Please visit the [Committee's website](#) for more information regarding the exact dates, times and locations of Committee events.

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