



Chairman Gordon Plans to Retire at the End of 111th Congress



Chairman Gordon announces plans to retire on [December 14](#).

After more than twenty-five years of public service, Committee Chairman Bart Gordon announced his plans to retire at the end of the 111th Congress. Over the past three years, under Chairman Gordon's leadership, the Committee held 192 hearings, passed 67 Committee bills and 49 resolutions through the House with bipartisan support.

"I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish together. We passed landmark legislation with the America COMPETES Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act," stated **Chairman Gordon**. "With the challenges our country faces, we have laid the foundation to rebuild our economy based on innovation, investments in research, and a sustained commitment to math and science education. For these reasons, I am committed to reauthorizing both COMPETES and NASA in the coming year."

[Read more about the accomplishments of the 1st session of the 111th Congress>>](#)

Committee Hearings Examine Issues Critical to NASA

In December, the Committee continued a series of hearings looking at the critical factors that the Administration and Congress will need to consider when making decisions on the future direction and funding for NASA.



Rep. Giffords talking with Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas Stafford, a pioneer of human space flight.

On [December 2](#), the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee discussed how to ensure the safety of human space flight in both government and non-governmental space transportation systems. On [December 10](#), the Committee examined how future decisions about NASA will affect the U.S. aerospace workforce and industrial base and the U.S.'s overall competitiveness.

"Aerospace jobs are high-paying, high-skilled jobs—jobs that will enable us to compete—and lead—in the 21st century, not just in space but back here on Earth too," said **Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords**.

[Read more about the Committee's work on NASA>>](#)

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Newsletter Spotlight

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

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,
Chairman,
U.S. House Committee

House Passes S&T Legislation

On [December 1](#), the House passed [H.R. 3598](#), the *Energy and Water Research Integration Act*, and [H.R. 3029](#), a bill to improve the efficiency of natural gas turbines.

[Read more >>](#)

December Hearings:

[December 2](#) — *Ensuring the Safety of Human Space Flight*

[December 3](#) — *Marine and Hydrokinetic Energy Technology: Finding the Path to Commercialization*

[December 3](#) — *Independent Audit of NASA*

[December 10](#) — *Decisions of the Future Direction and Funding for NASA: What Will They Mean for the U.S. Aerospace Workforce and Industrial Base?*

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