



Committee Discusses DOE's Energy Priorities with Secretary Chu

On March 17, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu testified before the Full Committee. At the hearing Secretary Chu discussed the Administration's near-term objectives and priority issues for its research and development programs.



Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Chairman David Wu discussing our nation's energy priorities with Secretary Chu and Rep. Vernon Ehlers after the hearing.

Gathering Storm panel, on which Dr. Chu was intimately involved in laying the groundwork for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy or ARPA-E. The panel's recommendations were translated into the America COMPETES Act, which was signed into law in 2007. ARPA-E received funding in the Recovery package.

Read more about [this hearing](#) or [ARPA-E](#) >>

Committee Spearheads Legislation to Establish a National Water R&D Initiative

Droughts, changing patterns of precipitation and snowmelt, and increased water loss due to evaporation as a result of warmer air temperatures caused Americans across the nation to feel the impact of the water crisis. On March 4, the Full Committee held a hearing to examine the need for a coordinated federal approach to water research and development.

"Constraints on water supplies are taking a toll on society, our economy, and the environment," said **Chairman Bart Gordon**. "Water is too valuable a resource for us to manage in a crisis-by-crisis fashion."

On March 25, the Full Committee favorably passed H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009, by a voice vote. In an effort to help communities facing water shortages the Committee held several hearings to examine the nations growing water crisis.

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

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Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the March 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

Additional Hearings in March :

March 5 — *Cost Management Issues in NASA's Acquisitions and Programs*

March 11 — *FutureGen and the DOE's Advanced Coal Programs*

March 12 — *ATSD: Problems in the Past, Potential for the Future?*

March 19 — *Following the Money: Accountability and Transparency in Recovery Act Science Funding*

March 24 — *Examining Federal Vehicles Technology R&D Programs*

March 26 — *Aviation & the Emerging Use of Biofuels*

March 31 — *The Role of Research in Addressing Climate in Transportation Infrastructure*

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Subcommittee Supports Strengthening Forensic Science

On March 10, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the state of US forensic sciences.

“Popular television shows have raised public awareness and expectation of the role of forensic science in solving crimes,” said **Subcommittee Chairman David Wu (D-OR)**. “However, the shows depict the practice of forensics in a manner that is far different from the current state of technology. I hope this hearing is a first step in moving from entertainment to reality.”

A National Academies report made a number of recommendations on how to improve forensic science. Many of the recommendations related to the research needs of the forensic sciences, as well as standards and accreditation issues to improve the validity, accuracy, and reliability of forensic science tests.

[Read more about this hearing >>](#)



Subcommittee Chairman **David Wu** stressed the importance of accountable forensic science results to support our law enforcement and judicial process.

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Committee Members Approved S&T Legislation

On March 25, the Full Committee passed H.R. 1145, the *National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009*, and H.R. 1580, the *Electronic Waste Research and Development Act*.

[Read more >>](#)

On March 31, the Research and Science Education Subcommittee passed H.R. 1736, the *International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009*, and H.R. 1709, the *STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009*.

[Read more >>](#)

Subcommittee Passes International S&T Cooperation Legislation

On March 24, the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education (R&SE) held a hearing to discuss the importance of coordinating international science partnerships. At the hearing, witnesses and Subcommittee Members reviewed draft legislation, H.R. 1736, authored by Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird.



Subcommittee Chairman **Daniel Lipinski** discussed the need to make international science partnerships a priority.

H.R. 1736 would establish a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation. On March 31, the R&SE Subcommittee passed H.R. 1736, the *International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009*, by a voice vote.

During the 110th Congress, the R&SE Subcommittee held [several hearing](#) on international science cooperation.

[Read more about the Committee's work on H.R. 1736 >>](#)

Looking Ahead

In late April, the Committee will markup bills regarding NITRD, K-12 Federal coordination, and International science cooperation. Please visit the [Committee's website](#) for more information regarding the dates, times, and locations of Committee events.

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