



National Climate Service Bill Advances

H.R. 2407, the *National Climate Service Act of 2009*, passed the Energy and Environment Subcommittee on May 13 by voice vote and the Full Committee on June 3 by a vote of 24 to 12. As amended, this legislation, authored by Chairman Bart Gordon, would establish a Climate Service Program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and outline an inter-agency process to establish a National Climate Service.

“H.R. 2407 provides NOAA with guidance on how to further develop its capability to deliver climate products and services at the regional, state, and local levels – the levels where planning and decision making occurs. NOAA can help our nation take advantage of improvements in climate that may favor some regions and adapt and respond to climate changes that will present challenges to others,” said **Gordon**.

“In a climate that is changing, it is imperative that we have reliable information to help us adapt and respond to these changes,” said **Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird**. “We must take a more strategic approach and structure the delivery of climate information and services to benefit the nation. A National Climate Service will support regional, state, local and tribal governments, businesses, and individuals in their efforts to make better decisions and plan for the future.”

[Read more about the Committee's work on H.R. 2407 >>](#)

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Subcommittee's Oversight of the Recovery Act Funding



Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller discussing the distribution of Recovery Act funding with witnesses.

held on March 19.

Read more about [this hearing](#) and the [Committee's effort to ensure accountability and transparency >>](#)

The Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee the held its second oversight hearing on May 5 to provide oversight and assistance as the Administration ties to meet high transparency goals within the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.

The first hearing, *Follow the Money: Accountability and Transparency in Recovery Act Science Funding*, was

<http://science.house.gov>

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Upon the release of the Administration's 60-day Cyberspace policy review report, Chairman Gordon announces three upcoming hearings on cyber security.

[Read more about the upcoming hearings >>](#)

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the May 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 May:

May 5 — *Expanding Climate Services at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Developing the National Climate Service*
May 19 — *NASA's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request*

May 19 — *The Science of Insolvency*

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Subcommittee Continues Oversight on the IRIS Process

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On [May 21](#), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced reforms to the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program. The reforms are intended to speed new chemical risk entries.

“The assessment of the health effects of environmental exposures should be entirely scientific, not at all political. Scientific peer review is useful, political review is not. The new process requires that any interagency discussion be solely about the science, and no agency can take a chemical assessment off the table. Most important, the entire process is in the open, not behind closed doors,” said **Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller**.

During the 110th Congress the Subcommittee held [two hearings](#) on the EPA’s IRIS program and sent a [letter](#) to the White House requesting the release documentation on toxic chemicals. On June 11, the Subcommittee is scheduled to review the reformed IRIS program at [a hearing](#).

House Passes Science and Technology Legislation

On May 12, the House approved [H.R. 2020](#), the *Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009*, also referred to as the *NITRD Act*. This bipartisan legislation passed by a voice vote.

[Read more about the Committee’s work on H.R. 2020 >>](#)

[Read more about H.R. 2020 >>](#)

Committee Examines the Federal R&D Budget for FY2010



On May 14, the Committee held a hearing to review the federal FY 2010 budget for research and development (R&D). Committee Members discussed the role of science in the new Administration with [Dr. John Holdren](#), Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Holdren and Members also discussed the president’s recent pledge to increase R&D to 3 percent of the national GDP.

Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords meeting with Dr. John Holden after the hearing.

“I’d like to thank Dr. Holdren for the excellent work he has done in planning for aggressive new science and technology policies and budgets. I also want to thank him for taking a strong leadership role on science integrity,” stated **Chairman Gordon**.

The proposed FY 2010 budget allocates \$147.6 billion for research and development (R&D) across all agencies – a \$555 million or 0.4 percent increase over the 2009 enacted amount. This figure does not include any of the estimated \$21.5 billion in R&D funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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

Looking Ahead

In June the Committee will hold hearings to examine [oil spill R&D](#), [environmental research](#), [EPA’s IRIS program](#), and [cyber security](#). Please check the [Committee’s website](#) for more information and the exact days and times of these events.

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