



Committee Approves Legislation to Improve Cybersecurity R&D

On November 18, the Full Committee passed H.R. 4061, the *Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2009*. H.R. 4061 will improve the security of cyberspace by ensuring federal investments in cybersecurity are better focused, more effective, and that research into innovative, transformative technologies is supported. In addition, H.R. 4061 expands and reauthorizes the *Cyber Security Research and Development Act*.



Subcommittee Chairman Lipinski discussing the bill with Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords.

H.R. 4061 was introduced by Research and Science Education Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Lipinski on November 7, 2009. This legislation is composed of two Committee discussion drafts: the *Cybersecurity Research and Development Amendments Act of 2009* and the *Cybersecurity Coordination and Awareness Act of 2009*.

[Read more about H.R. 4061>>](#)

Committee Examines Geoengineering

On November 5, the Committee held a hearing to learn more about geoengineering, the deliberate large-scale modification of the earth's climate systems to counteract climate change.

"My decision to hold this hearing should not in any way be misconstrued as an endorsement of any geoengineering activity," said **Chairman Bart Gordon**. "But this issue is too important for us to keep our heads in the sand. We must get ahead of geoengineering before it gets ahead of us, or worse, before we find ourselves in a climate



Chairman Gordon greeting a witness, Dr. James Fleming, before the hearing.

emergency with inadequate information as to the full range of options."

The Committee will hold additional hearings on geoengineering in the winter and spring. Also, Chairman Gordon announced that the Committee will partner with the United Kingdom House of Commons Science and Technology Committee to better understand this issue and share information.

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TIME magazine recognizes NASA's Ares rockets as the Best Invention of 2009. (Photo credit: NASA/Sandra Joseph & Kevin O'Connell)

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the November 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 November Hearings:

November 17 — *The Science of Security Part II: Technical Problems Continue to Hinder Advanced Radiation Monitors*
November 19 — *The Research and Development Portfolio Support the Priorities of the DOT*

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House Passes Fire Grants Bill

PAGE 2

On November 18, the House passed H.R. 3791, *Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009*, by a vote of 395 to 31. This legislation improves and reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program, two key programs that provide vital resources to local fire departments nationwide.

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(From L to R): Rep. Russ Carnahan, Subcommittee Chairman Wu, and Rep. Baron Hill discussing an amendment at the markup on October 21, 2009.

“Whether it’s putting out a house fire or a wildfire – or responding to a terrorist attack or a car accident – we depend on firefighters every day,” said bill author **Rep. Harry Mitchell**. “But firefighters also depend on us. They depend on the public and their elected officials to make sure that they have the resources, the equipment and the training they need to do their job. Without those tools, we put them and all of us at unnecessary risk. This legislation reauthorizes two programs that provide critical resources to fire departments across the country.”

If you are not already, please follow the S&T Committee on Twitter (@SciTechCmte) for up-to-date information on the Committee’s work. <http://twitter.com/SciTechCmte>

House Passes S&T Legislation

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Subcommittee Examines Growth of Global Space Capabilities

Committee Passes S&T Legislation

On November 19, the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee examined how the growth of global space capabilities may affect the future of the United State’s space program, including opportunities to partner with other nations to share costs and information.

“At a time when some in the U.S. seems to be questioning whether we should sustain a strong commitment to investing in our space program, the rest of the world has not hesitated to embrace the promise that the exploration and utilization of outer space can offer to them,” said **Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords**. “Those other nations recognize that space activities can spur innovation, help improve the quality of life of our citizens, promote national security and economic competitiveness, and advance geopolitical objectives.”

On November 4, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee approved the Committee discussion draft, *Cybersecurity Coordination and Awareness Act*.

[Read more >>](#)

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Looking Ahead

In early December, the Committee will hold hearings on the safety of human space flight, marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies, and an independent audit of NASA. Please check the Committee’s website for more information on the exact dates and time of these events.

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