



## COMPETES Passes the House with Bipartisan Support

On May 28, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5116, the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010* by a vote of 262 to 150. The legislation, which has over 100 cosponsors and more than 750 endorsers, makes investments in science, innovation, and education to support employers today while strengthening the U.S. scientific and economic leadership to grow new industries of tomorrow, and the jobs that come with them.

To maintain a pipeline of ideas, the bill puts basic research programs on a path to doubling authorized funding levels



Committee Members listening to an amendment at the Full Committee Markup of H.R. 5116 on April 28, 2010. (From T to B, L to R): Chairman Bart Gordon, Rep. Marcia Fudge, Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, Rep. Paul Tonko, and Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper.

over ten years at: the Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology labs. H.R. 5116 will help foster innovation in new energy technologies by: reauthorizing the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy and authorizing Energy Innovation Hubs.

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

## Subcommittee Examines How Research Can Help to Understand Impact of Volcanic Ash on Aircraft

Volcanic ash is very dangerous to an aircraft's operation. If an aircraft encounters volcanic ash during flight, it could lead to a variety of impairments including engine failure.



Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords talking with a witness, Captain Linda Orlady, after the hearing.

On May 5, the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee examined the role federal research can play in better predicting and understanding the impact that volcanic ash clouds have on aircraft operations. This is the first hearing convened by the House of Representatives to address this issue.

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E-NEWS

### Newsletter Spotlight

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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 May Hearings:

May 5 — *Mitigating the Impact of Volcanic Ash Clouds on Aviation—What Do We Need to Know?*

May 19 — *Charting the Course for American Nuclear Technology: Evaluating the Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy Research and Development Roadmap*

May 20 — *Preventing Harm – Protecting Health: Reforming CDC's Environmental Public Health Practices*

May 26 — *Review of the Proposed National Aeronautics and Space Administration Human Spaceflight Plan*

May 27 — *Interoperability in Public Safety Communications Equipment*

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## Committee Questions NASA's Proposed Human Spaceflight Plan

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Rep. Suzanne Kosmas meeting Mr. Neil Armstrong after the hearing on May 26, 2010.

On [May 26](#), the Full Committee examined the proposed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Human Spaceflight Plan and issues related to the budget, cost, schedule, and potential impacts of the plan.

“The task before us today is to determine if the Administration’s plan actually is doable under the Administration’s proposed budget—that it actually is ‘executable’ and truly puts NASA on a ‘sustainable path’. It does no good to cancel a program that the Administration characterizes as ‘unexecutable’, if that program is simply replaced with a new plan that can’t be executed either,” stated **Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)**.

Committee Members heard testimony from NASA Administrator [Charles Bolden](#), Apollo 11 commander [Neil Armstrong](#), Apollo 17 Commander Capt. [Eugene Cernan](#), and former executive vice president of Lockheed Martin [Thomas Young](#).

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Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Ralph Hall meeting with the witnesses before the hearing. (From L to R): Capt. Eugene Cernan, Rep. Gordon, Rep. Hall, Mr. Charles Bolden, Mr. A. Thomas Young, and Mr. Neil Armstrong.

## Looking Ahead

In June, the Committee will hold hearings on [research and technology needs for oil spill cleanup](#) and [improving technology transfer](#). For more information on exact dates and times, please visit the [Committee’s website](#).

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## House Passes S&T Legislation

On [May 28](#), the House passed [H.R. 5116](#), the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010*.

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On [May 4](#), the House passed [H.Res. 1307](#) and [H.Res. 1213](#).

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## Committee Requested Reports

On [May 28](#), the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report on environmental satellites](#).

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On [May 25](#), GAO released a [report on food safety](#).

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On [May 20](#), GAO released a report on the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s policies and procedures](#), and the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee staff released a [report on DC’s lead in water crisis](#).

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