

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1806

To provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LOUDERMILK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 102. Findings.

Sec. 103. Policy objectives.

Sec. 104. Definitions.

Sec. 105. Accountability and transparency.

Sec. 106. Greater accountability in Federal funding for research.

Sec. 107. Obligation of major research equipment and facilities construction funds.

Sec. 108. Management and oversight of large facilities.

Sec. 109. Whistleblower education.

Sec. 110. Graduate student support.

Sec. 111. Permissible support.

Sec. 112. Expanding STEM opportunities.

Sec. 113. Review of education programs.

Sec. 114. Recompetition of awards.

Sec. 115. Sense of the Congress regarding industry investment in STEM education.

Sec. 116. Misrepresentation of research results.

Sec. 117. Research reproducibility and replication.

Sec. 118. Research grant conditions.

Sec. 119. Computing resources study.

Sec. 120. Scientific breakthrough prizes.

Sec. 121. Rotating personnel.

Sec. 122. Sense of Congress regarding Innovation Corps.

Sec. 123. Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

Sec. 124. Noyce scholarship program amendments.

Sec. 125. Informal STEM education.

**TITLE II—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND
 MATHEMATICS**

Sec. 201. Findings; sense of Congress.

Sec. 202. STEM Education Advisory Panel.

Sec. 203. Committee on STEM Education.

Sec. 204. STEM Education Coordinating Office.

TITLE III—OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 302. Regulatory efficiency.

- Sec. 303. Coordination of international science and technology partnerships.
- Sec. 304. Alternative research funding models.
- Sec. 305. Amendments to prize competitions.
- Sec. 306. United States Chief Technology Officer.
- Sec. 307. National Research Council study on technology for emergency notifications on university campuses.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 402. Standards and conformity assessment.
- Sec. 403. Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology.
- Sec. 404. Police and security authority.
- Sec. 405. Education and outreach.
- Sec. 406. Programmatic planning report.
- Sec. 407. Assessments by the National Research Council.
- Sec. 408. Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership.
- Sec. 409. Elimination of obsolete reports.
- Sec. 410. Modifications to grants and cooperative agreements.
- Sec. 411. Information systems standards consultation.
- Sec. 412. United States-Israeli cooperation.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SCIENCE

- Sec. 501. Mission.
- Sec. 502. Basic energy sciences.
- Sec. 503. Advanced scientific computing research.
- Sec. 504. High energy physics.
- Sec. 505. Biological and environmental research.
- Sec. 506. Fusion energy.
- Sec. 507. Nuclear physics.
- Sec. 508. Science laboratories infrastructure program.
- Sec. 509. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 510. Definitions.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—Crosscutting Research and Development

- Sec. 601. Crosscutting research and development.
- Sec. 602. Strategic research portfolio analysis and coordination plan.
- Sec. 603. Strategy for facilities and infrastructure.

Subtitle B—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Research and Development

- Sec. 611. Distributed energy and electric energy systems.
- Sec. 612. Electric transmission and distribution research and development.

Subtitle C—Nuclear Energy Research and Development

- Sec. 621. Objectives.
- Sec. 622. Program objectives study.
- Sec. 623. Nuclear energy research and development programs.
- Sec. 624. Small modular reactor program.
- Sec. 625. Fuel cycle research and development.

- Sec. 626. Nuclear energy enabling technologies program.
- Sec. 627. Technical standards collaboration.
- Sec. 628. Available facilities database.
- Sec. 629. Nuclear waste disposal.

Subtitle D—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Research and Development

- Sec. 641. Energy efficiency.
- Sec. 642. Next Generation Lighting Initiative.
- Sec. 643. Building standards.
- Sec. 644. Secondary electric vehicle battery use program.
- Sec. 645. Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program.
- Sec. 646. Advanced Energy Technology Transfer Centers.
- Sec. 647. Renewable energy.
- Sec. 648. Bioenergy program.
- Sec. 649. Concentrating solar power research program.
- Sec. 650. Renewable energy in public buildings.

Subtitle E—Fossil Energy Research and Development

- Sec. 661. Fossil energy.
- Sec. 662. Research, development, demonstration, and commercial application programs.
- Sec. 663. High efficiency gas turbines research and development.

Subtitle F—Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy

- Sec. 671. ARPA-E amendments.

Subtitle G—Authorization of Appropriations

- Sec. 681. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle H—Definitions

- Sec. 691. Definitions.

TITLE VII—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Subtitle A—In General

- Sec. 701. Definitions.
- Sec. 702. Savings clause.

Subtitle B—Innovation Management at Department of Energy

- Sec. 711. Under Secretary for Science and Energy.
- Sec. 712. Technology transfer and transitions assessment.
- Sec. 713. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 714. Nuclear energy innovation.

Subtitle C—Cross-Sector Partnerships and Grant Competitiveness

- Sec. 721. Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot program.
- Sec. 722. Public-private partnerships for commercialization.
- Sec. 723. Inclusion of early-stage technology demonstration in authorized technology transfer activities.

Sec. 724. Funding competitiveness for institutions of higher education and other nonprofit institutions.

Sec. 725. Participation in the Innovation Corps program.

Subtitle D—Assessment of Impact

Sec. 731. Report by Government Accountability Office.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act—

3 (1) the term “STEM” means the subjects of
4 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

5 (2) the term “STEM education” means edu-
6 cation in the subjects of STEM, including computer
7 science; and

8 (3) the term “Committee on STEM Education”
9 means the Committee on Science, Technology, Engi-
10 neering, and Mathematics Education established
11 under section 101 of the America COMPETES Re-
12 authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621).

13 **TITLE I—NATIONAL SCIENCE**
14 **FOUNDATION**

15 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
18 appropriated to the Foundation \$7,597,140,000 for
19 fiscal year 2016.

20 (2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount
21 authorized by paragraph (1)—

1 (A) \$6,186,300,000 shall be made avail-
2 able to carry out research and related activities,
3 including—

4 (i) \$834,800,000 for the Biological
5 Science Directorate;

6 (ii) \$1,050,000,000 for the Computer
7 and Information Science and Engineering
8 Directorate;

9 (iii) \$1,034,000,000 for the Engineer-
10 ing Directorate;

11 (iv) \$1,200,000,000 for the Geo-
12 sciences Directorate;

13 (v) \$1,500,000,000 for the Mathe-
14 matical and Physical Science Directorate;

15 (vi) \$150,000,000 for the Social, Be-
16 havioral, and Economics Directorate, of
17 which \$50,000,000 shall be for the Na-
18 tional Center for Science and Engineering
19 Statistics;

20 (vii) \$38,520,000 for the Office of
21 International Science and Engineering;

22 (viii) \$377,500,000 for Integrative
23 Activities; and

24 (ix) \$1,480,000 for the United States
25 Arctic Commission;

1 (B) \$866,000,000 shall be made available
2 for education and human resources;

3 (C) \$200,310,000 shall be made available
4 for major research equipment and facilities con-
5 struction;

6 (D) \$325,000,000 shall be made available
7 for agency operations and award management;

8 (E) \$3,870,000 shall be made available for
9 the Office of the National Science Board; and

10 (F) \$15,660,000 shall be made available
11 for the Office of Inspector General.

12 (b) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
14 appropriated to the Foundation \$7,597,140,000 for
15 fiscal year 2017.

16 (2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount
17 authorized by paragraph (1)—

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24 for agency operations and award management;

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2 the Office of the National Science Board; and
3 (F) \$15,660,000 shall be made available
4 for the Office of Inspector General.

5 **SEC. 102. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

- 7 (1) Taxpayer-supported research investments
8 administered by the Foundation should serve the na-
9 tional interest.
- 10 (2) The Foundation has made major contribu-
11 tions for more than 60 years to strengthen and sus-
12 tain the Nation's academic research enterprise.
- 13 (3) The economic strength and national security
14 of the United States, and the quality of life of all
15 Americans, are grounded in the Nation's scientific
16 and technological capabilities.
- 17 (4) Providing support for basic research is an
18 investment in our Nation's future security and eco-
19 nomic prosperity.
- 20 (5) Congress applauds the Foundation's rec-
21 ognition that wise stewardship of taxpayer dollars is
22 necessary to maintain and ensure the public's trust
23 for funding of fundamental scientific and engineer-
24 ing research.

1 (6) Other nations are increasing their public in-
2 vestments in basic research in the physical sciences
3 in order to boost long-term economic growth.

4 (7) Longstanding United States leadership in
5 supercomputing, genomics, nanoscience, photonics,
6 quantum physics, and other key technological areas
7 is jeopardized if United States investments in basic
8 research in the natural sciences do not keep pace.

9 (8) Redundant regulations and reporting re-
10 quirements imposed by Federal agencies on research
11 institutions and researchers increase costs by tens of
12 millions of dollars annually.

13 (9) The Foundation carries out important func-
14 tions by supporting basic research in all science and
15 engineering disciplines and in supporting STEM
16 education at all levels.

17 (10) The research and education activities of
18 the Foundation promote the discovery, integration,
19 dissemination, and application of new knowledge in
20 service to society and prepare future generations of
21 scientists, mathematicians, and engineers who will
22 be necessary to ensure America's leadership in the
23 global marketplace.

24 (11) Many of the complex problems and chal-
25 lenges facing the Nation increasingly require the col-

1 laboration of multiple scientific disciplines. The
2 Foundation should continue to emphasize cross-di-
3 rectorate research collaboration and activities to ad-
4 dress these issues and encourage interdisciplinary re-
5 search.

6 (12) The Foundation should meet the highest
7 standards of efficiency, transparency, and account-
8 ability in its stewardship of public funds.

9 (13) The Foundation is charged with the re-
10 sponsibilities—

11 (A) to develop and encourage the pursuit
12 of a national policy for the promotion of basic
13 research and education in the sciences;

14 (B) to initiate, support, and conduct basic
15 scientific research and to appraise the impact of
16 research on industrial development and the gen-
17 eral welfare;

18 (C) to initiate, support, and conduct sci-
19 entific research activities in connection with
20 matters relating to the national defense, at the
21 request of the Secretary of Defense;

22 (D) to award scholarships and graduate
23 fellowships in the sciences;

1 (E) to foster the interchange of scientific
2 information among scientists and across sci-
3 entific disciplines;

4 (F) to evaluate scientific research pro-
5 grams undertaken by agencies of the Federal
6 Government, and to correlate the Foundation's
7 scientific research with that undertaken by indi-
8 viduals and by public and private research
9 groups;

10 (G) to communicate effectively to Amer-
11 ican citizens the relevance of public investments
12 in scientific discovery and technological innova-
13 tion to the Nation's security, prosperity, and
14 welfare; and

15 (H) to establish such special commissions
16 as the Board considers necessary.

17 (14) The emerging global economic, scientific,
18 and technical environment challenges long standing
19 assumptions about domestic and international policy,
20 requiring the Foundation to play a more proactive
21 role in sustaining the competitive advantage of the
22 United States through superior research capabilities.

1 **SEC. 103. POLICY OBJECTIVES.**

2 In allocating resources made available under this
3 title, the Foundation shall have the following policy objec-
4 tives:

5 (1) To renew and maintain the Nation's inter-
6 national leadership in science and technology by—

7 (A) increasing the national investment in
8 basic scientific research and increasing inter-
9 disciplinary investment in strategic areas vital
10 to the national interest;

11 (B) balancing the Nation's research port-
12 folio among the life sciences, mathematics, the
13 physical sciences, computer and information
14 science, geosciences, engineering, and social, be-
15 havioral, and economic sciences, all of which are
16 important for the continued development of en-
17 abling technologies necessary for sustained eco-
18 nomic competitiveness;

19 (C) encouraging investments in potentially
20 transformative scientific research to benefit our
21 Nation and its citizens;

22 (D) expanding the pool of scientists and
23 engineers in the United States, including among
24 segments of the population that have been his-
25 torically underrepresented in STEM fields; and

1 (E) modernizing the Nation’s research in-
2 frastructure and establishing and maintaining
3 cooperative international relationships with pre-
4 mier research institutions.

5 (2) To increase overall workforce skills by—

6 (A) improving the quality of STEM edu-
7 cation and tools provided both inside and out-
8 side of the classroom, including in kindergarten
9 through grade 12; and

10 (B) expanding STEM training opportuni-
11 ties at institutions of higher education.

12 (3) To strengthen innovation by expanding the
13 focus of competitiveness and innovation at the re-
14 gional and local level.

15 **SEC. 104. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this title:

17 (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the Na-
18 tional Science Board.

19 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
20 the Director of the Foundation.

21 (3) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation”
22 means the National Science Foundation established
23 under section 2 of the National Science Foundation
24 Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

1 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
2 term “institution of higher education” has the
3 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
4 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

5 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means one of
6 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
8 Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the
9 Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or
10 possession of the United States.

11 (6) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
12 States” means the several States, the District of Co-
13 lumbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Vir-
14 gin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-
15 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any
16 other territory or possession of the United States.

17 **SEC. 105. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that—

19 (1) sustained, predictable Federal funding is es-
20 sential to United States leadership in science and
21 technology;

22 (2) building understanding of and confidence in
23 investments in basic research are essential to public
24 support for sustained, predictable Federal funding;
25 and

1 (3) the Foundation should commit itself fully to
2 transparency and accountability and to clear, con-
3 sistent public communication regarding the national
4 interest for each Foundation-awarded grant and co-
5 operative agreement.

6 **SEC. 106. GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN FEDERAL FUND-**
7 **ING FOR RESEARCH.**

8 (a) STANDARD FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—The Foun-
9 dation shall award Federal funding for basic research and
10 education in the sciences through a new research grant
11 or cooperative agreement only if an affirmative determina-
12 tion is made by the Foundation under subsection (b) and
13 written justification relating thereto is published under
14 subsection (c).

15 (b) DETERMINATION.—A determination referred to
16 in subsection (a) is a justification by the responsible Foun-
17 dation official as to how the research grant or cooperative
18 agreement promotes the progress of science in the United
19 States, consistent with the Foundation mission as estab-
20 lished in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42
21 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and further—

22 (1) is worthy of Federal funding; and

23 (2) is in the national interest, as indicated by
24 having the potential to achieve—

1 (A) increased economic competitiveness in
2 the United States;

3 (B) advancement of the health and welfare
4 of the American public;

5 (C) development of an American STEM
6 workforce that is globally competitive;

7 (D) increased public scientific literacy and
8 public engagement with science and technology
9 in the United States;

10 (E) increased partnerships between aca-
11 demia and industry in the United States;

12 (F) support for the national defense of the
13 United States; or

14 (G) promotion of the progress of science in
15 the United States.

16 (c) WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION.—Public announce-
17 ment of each award of Federal funding described in sub-
18 section (a) shall include a written justification from the
19 responsible Foundation official as to how a grant or coop-
20 erative agreement meets the requirements of subsection
21 (b).

22 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—A determination under sub-
23 section (b) shall be made after a research grant or cooper-
24 ative agreement proposal has satisfied the Foundation's
25 reviews for Merit and Broader Impacts. Nothing in this

1 section shall be construed as altering the Foundation’s in-
 2 tellectual merit or broader impacts criteria for evaluating
 3 grant applications.

4 **SEC. 107. OBLIGATION OF MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT**
 5 **AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.**

6 No funds may be obligated for a fiscal year for a con-
 7 struction project for the Foundation that has not com-
 8 menced before the date of enactment of this Act until 30
 9 days after the report required with respect to each such
 10 fiscal year under section 14(a)(2) of the National Science
 11 Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
 12 4(a)(2)) is transmitted to the Congress.

13 **SEC. 108. MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF LARGE FA-**
 14 **CILITIES.**

15 (a) LARGE FACILITIES OFFICE.—The Director shall
 16 maintain a Large Facilities Office within the Office of the
 17 Director. The functions of the Large Facilities Office shall
 18 be to support the research directorates in the development,
 19 implementation, and assessment of major multi-user re-
 20 search facilities, including by—

21 (1) serving as the Foundation’s primary re-
 22 source for all policy or process issues related to the
 23 development and implementation of major multi-user
 24 research facilities;

1 (2) serving as a Foundation-wide resource on
2 project management, including providing expert as-
3 sistance on nonscientific and nontechnical aspects of
4 project planning, budgeting, implementation, man-
5 agement, and oversight;

6 (3) coordinating and collaborating with research
7 directorates to share best management practices and
8 lessons learned from prior projects; and

9 (4) assessing projects during preconstruction
10 and construction phases for cost and schedule risk.

11 (b) OVERSIGHT OF LARGE FACILITIES.—The Direc-
12 tor shall appoint a senior agency official within the Office
13 of the Director whose primary responsibility is oversight
14 of major multi-user research facilities. The duties of this
15 official shall include—

16 (1) oversight of the development, construction,
17 and operation of major multi-user research facilities
18 across the Foundation;

19 (2) in collaboration with the directors of the re-
20 search directorates and other senior agency officials
21 as appropriate, ensuring that the requirements of
22 section 14(a) of the National Science Foundation
23 Authorization Act of 2002 are satisfied;

1 (3) serving as a liaison to the National Science
2 Board for approval and oversight of major multi-
3 user research facilities; and

4 (4) periodically reviewing and updating as nec-
5 essary Foundation policies and guidelines for the de-
6 velopment and construction of major multi-user re-
7 search facilities.

8 (c) POLICIES FOR LARGE FACILITY COSTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall ensure
10 that the Foundation’s polices for developing and
11 maintaining major multi-user research facility con-
12 struction costs are consistent with the best practices
13 described in the March 2009 Government Account-
14 ability Office Report GAO–09–3SP, or any successor
15 report thereto, and the Uniform Guidance in 2
16 C.F.R. part 200.

17 (2) COST PROPOSAL AUDITS.—

18 (A) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—The Direc-
19 tor shall ensure that a cost proposal audit is
20 conducted on any project with a total project
21 cost over \$50,000,000, in accordance with Gov-
22 ernment Auditing Standards as established in
23 Government Accountability Office Report GAO–
24 12–331G, or any successor report thereto.

1 (B) CORRECTION OF ISSUES FOUND.—The
2 Director must certify in writing that all issues
3 identified by the auditor, including any finding
4 of unjustified or questionable costs items, are
5 corrected before the Foundation may execute a
6 construction agreement with respect to the au-
7 dited project.

8 (C) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The
9 Director shall transmit each certification made
10 under subparagraph (B) to the Committee on
11 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
12 Representatives, the Committee on Commerce,
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the
14 Committee on Appropriations of the House of
15 Representatives, and the Committee on Appro-
16 priations of the Senate.

17 (3) INCURRED COST AUDITS.—The Director
18 shall ensure that an incurred cost submission and
19 audit is conducted annually on any project with a
20 total project cost over \$50,000,000, in accordance
21 with Government Auditing Standards as established
22 in Government Accountability Office Report GAO-
23 12-331G, or any successor report thereto.

24 (4) CONTINGENCIES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall
2 not make any award which provides for con-
3 tributions to a contingency reserve held or man-
4 aged by the awardee, or any similar provision
5 made for events the occurrence of which cannot
6 be foretold with certainty as to time or inten-
7 sity, or with an assurance of their happening.
8 For budgeting purposes, the Foundation shall
9 estimate costs associated with unforeseen events
10 that could occur, and shall retain the funds al-
11 located for such purposes except as provided in
12 this paragraph.

13 (B) UPDATING POLICY MANUAL.—The
14 Foundation shall update its NSF Grant Policy
15 Manual and any other applicable guidance for
16 contingencies on major multi-user research fa-
17 cilities with regard to estimating, monitoring,
18 and accounting for contingency expenditures.

19 (C) FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS.—The
20 policy updated under subparagraph (B) shall
21 require that the Foundation—

22 (i) may only include contingency
23 amounts in an award made to a recipient
24 to the extent that those amounts are for
25 occurrences that are foreseeable with cer-

1 tainty as to time, intensity, or the assur-
2 ance of them happening and are supported
3 by verifiable cost data;

4 (ii) shall retain control over funds
5 budgeted for unforeseeable events and re-
6 lease those funds only when the awardee
7 demonstrates a bona fide need for the
8 funds supported by verifiable cost data;
9 and

10 (iii) shall ensure that supporting cost
11 data described in clauses (i) and (ii) are
12 sufficient to establish that the amounts are
13 reasonable, allocable, and allowable.

14 (D) AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS.—The pol-
15 icy updated under subparagraph (B) shall re-
16 quire that an awardee shall—

17 (i) provide verifiable cost data for any
18 amounts proposed for contingencies;

19 (ii) support requests for the release of
20 contingency funds with evidence of a bona
21 fide need and verifiable cost data to estab-
22 lish that the amounts sought are reason-
23 able, allocable, and allowable; and

24 (iii) record and report all contingency
25 expenditures to the Foundation.

1 (E) CURRENT AWARDEES.—The Founda-
2 tion shall work with awardees for whom awards
3 with contingency provisions have been made be-
4 fore the date of enactment of this Act—

5 (i) to determine if any of their use of
6 contingency funds represents out-of-scope
7 changes for which Foundation’s prior writ-
8 ten approval was not obtained; and

9 (ii) if out-of-scope changes are found,
10 to identify any financial action that may be
11 appropriate.

12 (5) MANAGEMENT FEES.—

13 (A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
14 term “management fee” means a portion of an
15 award made by the Foundation for the purpose
16 of covering ordinary and necessary business ex-
17 penses necessary to maintain operational sta-
18 bility which are not otherwise allowable under
19 Cost Principles Uniform Guidance in 2 C.F.R.
20 part 200, Subpart E, or any successor regula-
21 tion thereto.

22 (B) LIMITATION.—The Foundation may
23 provide management fees under an award only
24 if the awardee has demonstrated that it has
25 limited or no other financial resources for cov-

1 ering the expenses for which the management
2 fees are sought.

3 (C) FINANCIAL INFORMATION.—The
4 Foundation shall require award applicants to
5 provide income and financial information cov-
6 ering a period of no less than three prior years
7 (or in the case of an entity established less than
8 three years prior to the entity’s application
9 date, the period beginning on the date of estab-
10 lishment and ending on the application date),
11 including cash on hand and net asset informa-
12 tion, in support of a request for management
13 fees. The Foundation shall also require award-
14 ees to report to the Foundation, within 30 days
15 of receipt, any sources of non-Federal funds re-
16 ceived in excess of \$50,000 during the award
17 period.

18 (D) EXPENSE REPORTING.—The Founda-
19 tion shall require awardees to track and report
20 to the Foundation annually all expenses reim-
21 bursed or otherwise paid for with management
22 fee funds, in accordance with Federal account-
23 ing practices as established in Government Ac-
24 countability Office Report GAO–12–331G, or
25 any successor report thereto.

1 (E) AUDITS.—The Inspector General of
2 the Foundation may audit any Foundation
3 award for compliance with this paragraph.

4 (F) PROHIBITED USES.—An awardee may
5 not use management fees for—

6 (i) costs allowable under Cost Prin-
7 ciples Uniform Guidance in 2 C.F.R. part
8 200, Subpart E, or any successor regula-
9 tion thereto;

10 (ii) alcoholic beverages;

11 (iii) tickets to concerts, or sporting
12 and other entertainment events;

13 (iv) vacation or other travel for non-
14 business purposes;

15 (v) charitable contributions;

16 (vi) social or sporting club member-
17 ships;

18 (vii) meals for nonbusiness purposes;

19 (viii) luxury or personal items;

20 (ix) lobbying, as described in the Uni-
21 form Guidance at 2 C.F.R. 200.450; or

22 (x) any other purpose the Foundation
23 determines is inappropriate.

24 (G) REVIEW.—The Foundation shall re-
25 view management fee usage under each Foun-

1 dation award on at least an annual basis for
2 compliance with this paragraph and the Foun-
3 dation's Large Facilities Manual.

4 (6) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall
6 submit to Congress a report describing the Founda-
7 tion's policies for developing and managing major
8 multi-user research facility construction costs, in-
9 cluding a description of any aspects of the policies
10 that diverge from the best practices recommended in
11 Government Accountability Office Report GAO-09-
12 3SP, or any successor report thereto, and the Uni-
13 form Guidance in 2 C.F.R. part 200.

14 **SEC. 109. WHISTLEBLOWER EDUCATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall be subject
16 to section 4712 of title 41, United States Code.

17 (b) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Foundation
18 shall provide education and training for Foundation man-
19 agers and staff on the requirements of such section 4712,
20 and provide information on the law to all grantees, con-
21 tractors, and employees of such grantees and contractors.

22 **SEC. 110. GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT.**

23 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that the essential elements of the NSF Research
25 Traineeship Program, formerly the Integrative Graduate

1 Education and Research Traineeship program, (or any
2 successor thereto) should be maintained, including—

3 (1) collaborative research that transcends tradi-
4 tional disciplinary boundaries to solve large and
5 complex research problems of significant scientific
6 and societal importance; and

7 (2) providing students the opportunity to be-
8 come leaders in the science and engineering of the
9 future.

10 (b) MODELS FOR SUPPORT.—The Director shall
11 enter into an agreement with the National Research Coun-
12 cil to convene a workshop or roundtable to examine models
13 of Federal support for STEM graduate students, includ-
14 ing the Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship pro-
15 gram and comparable fellowship programs at other agen-
16 cies, traineeship programs, and the research assistant
17 model.

18 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the workshop or
19 roundtable shall be to compare and evaluate the extent
20 to which each of these models helps to prepare graduate
21 students for diverse careers utilizing STEM degrees, in-
22 cluding at diverse types of institutions of higher education,
23 in industry, and at government agencies and research lab-
24 oratories, and to make recommendations regarding—

1 (1) how current Federal programs and models,
2 including programs and models at the Foundation,
3 can be improved;

4 (2) the appropriateness of the current distribu-
5 tion of funding among the different models at the
6 Foundation and across the agencies; and

7 (3) the appropriateness of creating a new edu-
8 cation and training program for graduate students
9 distinct from programs that provide direct financial
10 support, including the grants authorized in section
11 527 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization
12 Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–15).

13 (d) CRITERIA.—At a minimum, in comparing pro-
14 grams and models, the workshop or roundtable partici-
15 pants shall consider the capacity of such programs or
16 models to provide students with knowledge and skills—

17 (1) to become independent, creative, successful
18 researchers;

19 (2) to participate in large interdisciplinary re-
20 search projects, including in an international con-
21 text;

22 (3) to adhere to the highest standards for re-
23 search ethics;

24 (4) to become high-quality teachers utilizing the
25 most currently available evidence-based pedagogy;

1 (5) in oral and written communication, to both
2 technical and nontechnical audiences;

3 (6) in innovation, entrepreneurship, and busi-
4 ness ethics; and

5 (7) in program management.

6 (e) GRADUATE STUDENT INPUT.—The participants
7 in the workshop or roundtable shall include current or re-
8 cent STEM graduate students.

9 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the National Research Council
11 shall submit to Congress a summary report of the findings
12 and recommendations of the workshop or roundtable con-
13 vened under this section.

14 **SEC. 111. PERMISSIBLE SUPPORT.**

15 A grant made by the Education and Human Re-
16 sources Directorate to support informal education may be
17 used—

18 (1) to support the participation of underrep-
19 resented students in nonprofit competitions, out-of-
20 school activities, and field experiences related to
21 STEM subjects (such as robotics, science research,
22 invention, mathematics, and technology competi-
23 tions), including—

24 (A) the purchase of parts and supplies
25 needed to participate in such competitions; and

1 (B) incentives and stipends for teachers
2 and instructional leaders who are involved in
3 assisting students and preparing students for
4 such competitions, if such activities fall outside
5 the regular duties and responsibilities of such
6 teachers and instructional leaders; and

7 (2) to broaden underrepresented secondary
8 school students' access to, and interest in, careers
9 that require academic preparation in STEM sub-
10 jects.

11 **SEC. 112. EXPANDING STEM OPPORTUNITIES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within the Directorate for Edu-
13 cation and Human Resources (or any successor thereto),
14 under existing programs targeting broadening participa-
15 tion, the Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed,
16 competitive basis for research on programming that en-
17 gages underrepresented students in grades kindergarten
18 through 8 in STEM.

19 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
21 section shall be used for research to advance the en-
22 gagement of underrepresented students in grades
23 kindergarten through 8 in STEM through the devel-
24 opment and implementation of innovative before-
25 school, after-school, out-of-school, or summer activi-

1 ties, including programs (if applicable to the target
2 population) provided in a single-gender environment,
3 that are designed to encourage interest, engagement,
4 and skills development of underrepresented students
5 in STEM. Such research shall be conducted in learn-
6 ing environments that actively provide programming
7 to underrepresented students in grades kindergarten
8 through 8 in STEM.

9 (2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES.—Such activities
10 may include—

11 (A) the development and implementation of
12 programming described in subsection (a) for the
13 purpose of research;

14 (B) the use of a variety of engagement
15 methods, including cooperative and hands-on
16 learning;

17 (C) exposure of underrepresented youth to
18 role models in the fields of STEM and nearpeer
19 mentors;

20 (D) training of informal learning educators
21 and youth-serving professionals using evidence-
22 based methods consistent with the target stu-
23 dent population being served;

24 (E) education of students on the relevance
25 and significance of STEM careers, provision of

1 academic advice and assistance, and activities
2 designed to help students make real-world con-
3 nections to STEM content activities;

4 (F) the attendance of underrepresented
5 youth at events, competitions, and academic
6 programs to provide content expertise and en-
7 courage career exposure in STEM;

8 (G) activities designed to engage parents of
9 underrepresented youth;

10 (H) innovative strategies to engage under-
11 represented youth, such as using leadership
12 skill outcome measures to encourage youth with
13 the confidence to pursue STEM coursework and
14 academic study;

15 (I) coordination with STEM-rich environ-
16 ments, including other nonprofit, nongovern-
17 mental organizations, classroom and out-of-
18 classroom settings, institutions of higher edu-
19 cation, vocational facilities, corporations, muse-
20 ums, or science centers; and

21 (J) the acquisition of instructional mate-
22 rials or technology-based tools to conduct appli-
23 cable grant activity.

24 (c) APPLICATION.—An applicant seeking funding
25 under the section shall submit an application at such time,

1 in such manner, and containing such information as may
2 be required. The application shall include, at a minimum,
3 the following:

4 (1) A description of the target audience to be
5 served by the program.

6 (2) A description of the process for recruitment
7 and selection of students, as appropriate.

8 (3) A description of how such research activity
9 may inform programming that engages underrep-
10 resented students in grades kindergarten through 8
11 in STEM.

12 (4) A description of how such research activity
13 may inform programming that promotes student
14 academic achievement in STEM.

15 (5) An evaluation plan that includes, at a min-
16 imum, the use of outcome-oriented measures to de-
17 termine the impact and efficacy of activities being
18 researched.

19 (d) AWARDS.—In awarding grants under this section,
20 the Director shall give priority to applicants which, for the
21 purpose of grant activity, include or partner with a non-
22 profit, nongovernmental organization that has extensive
23 experience and expertise in increasing the participation of
24 underrepresented students in STEM.

25 (e) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

1 (1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 5
2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
3 Director shall evaluate the grants provided under
4 this section. In addition to evaluating the effective-
5 ness of the grant activities, such evaluation shall—

6 (A) use a common set of benchmarks and
7 assessment tools to identify best practices and
8 materials developed or demonstrated by the re-
9 search; and

10 (B) to the extent practicable, combine the
11 research resulting from the grant activity with
12 the current research on serving underrep-
13 resented students in grades kindergarten
14 through 8.

15 (2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than
16 180 days after the completion of the evaluation
17 under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to
18 Congress and make widely available to the public a
19 report that includes—

20 (A) the results of the evaluation; and

21 (B) any recommendations for administra-
22 tive and legislative action that could optimize
23 the effectiveness of the program.

24 (f) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
25 Director shall consult, cooperate, and coordinate, to en-

1 hance program effectiveness and to avoid duplication, with
2 the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agen-
3 cies.

4 **SEC. 113. REVIEW OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall review the edu-
6 cation programs of the Foundation that are in operation
7 as of the date of enactment of this Act to determine—

8 (1) whether any of such programs duplicate tar-
9 get groups, services provided, fields of focus, or ob-
10 jectives; and

11 (2) how those programs are being evaluated
12 and assessed for outcome-oriented effectiveness.

13 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
14 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter as part
15 of the annual budget submission to Congress, the Director
16 shall complete a report on the review carried out under
17 this section and shall submit the report to the Committee
18 on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on
19 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to
20 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
21 tation, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
22 Pensions, and the Committee on Appropriations of the
23 Senate, and shall make the report widely available to the
24 public.

1 **SEC. 114. RECOMPETITION OF AWARDS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

3 (1) the merit-reviewed competition of grant and
4 award proposals is a hallmark of the Foundation
5 grant and award making process;

6 (2) the majority of Foundation-funded multi-
7 user research facilities have transitioned to five-year
8 cooperative agreements, and every five years the pro-
9 gram officer responsible for the facility makes a rec-
10 ommendation to the National Science Board as to
11 the renewal, recompetition, or termination of sup-
12 port for the facility; and

13 (3) requiring the recompetition of expiring
14 awards is based on the conviction that competition
15 is most likely to ensure the effective stewardship of
16 Foundation funds for supporting research and edu-
17 cation.

18 (b) RECOMPETITION.—The Director shall ensure that
19 the system for recompetition of Maintenance and Oper-
20 ations of facilities, equipment and instrumentation is fair,
21 consistent, and transparent and is applied in a manner
22 that renews grants and awards in a timely manner. The
23 Director shall periodically evaluate whether the criteria of
24 the system are being applied in a manner that is trans-
25 parent, reliable, and valid.

1 **SEC. 115. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING INDUSTRY**
2 **INVESTMENT IN STEM EDUCATION.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) in order to bolster the STEM workforce
5 pipeline, many industry sectors are becoming in-
6 volved in K–12 initiatives and supporting under-
7 graduate and graduate work in STEM subject areas
8 and fields;

9 (2) partnerships with education providers,
10 STEM focused competitions, and other opportunities
11 have become important aspects of private sector ef-
12 forts to strengthen the STEM workforce;

13 (3) understanding the work that private sector
14 organizations are undertaking in STEM fields
15 should inform the Federal Government’s role in
16 STEM education; and

17 (4) successful private sector STEM initiatives,
18 as reflected by measurements of relevant outcomes,
19 should be encouraged and supported by the Founda-
20 tion.

21 **SEC. 116. MISREPRESENTATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS.**

22 (a) PROHIBITION.—The findings and conclusions of
23 any article authored by a principal investigator receiving
24 a research grant from the Foundation, using the results
25 of the research conducted under the grant, that is pub-
26 lished in a peer-reviewed publication, otherwise made pub-

1 licly available, or incorporated in an application for a re-
 2 search grant or grant extension from the Foundation may
 3 not contain any falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism, as
 4 established in the Foundation's Research Misconduct reg-
 5 ulation (45 C.F.R. 689).

6 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Director shall make publicly
 7 available any finding that research misconduct (as defined
 8 in 45 C.F.R. 689) has been committed, including the
 9 name of the principal investigator, within 30 days of the
 10 final administration action of the Foundation.

11 **SEC. 117. RESEARCH REPRODUCIBILITY AND REPLICA-**
 12 **TION.**

13 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 14 gress that—

15 (1) the gold standard of good science is the
 16 ability of a researcher or research lab to reproduce
 17 a published method and finding;

18 (2) there is growing concern that a significant
 19 amount of published research findings cannot be re-
 20 produced or replicated, which can negatively affect
 21 the public's trust in science;

22 (3) there are a complex set of factors affecting
 23 reproducibility and replication; and

24 (4) the increasing interdisciplinary nature and
 25 complexity of scientific research may be a contrib-

1 uting factor to issues with research reproducibility
2 and replication.

3 (b) REPORT.—The Director shall—

4 (1) not later than 45 days after the date of en-
5 actment of this Act, enter into an agreement with
6 the National Research Council to provide, within 18
7 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a re-
8 port to assess research and data reproducibility and
9 replicability issues in interdisciplinary research and
10 to make recommendations on how to improve rigor
11 and transparency in scientific research; and

12 (2) not later than 60 days after receiving the
13 results of the assessment under paragraph (1), sub-
14 mit a report to the Committee on Science, Space,
15 and Technology of the House of Representatives and
16 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
17 portation of the Senate on the findings of the assess-
18 ment, together with the agreement or disagreement
19 of the Director and Board with each of its findings
20 and recommendations.

21 **SEC. 118. RESEARCH GRANT CONDITIONS.**

22 The Foundation shall establish procedures to ensure
23 that—

24 (1) a research grant awarded by the Founda-
25 tion to a principal investigator supports a scope of

1 work not otherwise being directly funded by grants
2 provided by other Federal agencies;

3 (2) a principal investigator includes in any ap-
4 plication for a research grant awarded by the Foun-
5 dation a list of all Federal research funding received
6 by the principal investigator, as well as any funding
7 that is being requested as of that time;

8 (3) unpublished research results used to sup-
9 port a grant proposal made to the Foundation do
10 not include any knowing misrepresentations of data;

11 (4) principal investigators who receive Founda-
12 tion research grant funding under more than one
13 grant at the same time have sufficient resources to
14 conduct the proposed research under each of those
15 grants appropriately under the terms of the grant;
16 and

17 (5) barriers to early career and new investigator
18 applicants are addressed, including taking into ac-
19 count the broader accomplishments and potential of
20 the individual investigator in addition to the poten-
21 tial impact of the project.

22 **SEC. 119. COMPUTING RESOURCES STUDY.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the
25 Congress a report detailing the results of a study on the

1 use of scientific computing resources funded by the Foun-
2 dation at institutions of higher education. Such study shall
3 assess—

4 (1) efficiencies that can be achieved by using
5 shared scientific computing resources for projects
6 that have similar scientific computing requirements
7 or projects where specialized software solutions could
8 be shared with other practitioners in the scientific
9 community;

10 (2) efficiencies that can be achieved by using
11 shared hardware that can be cost effectively pro-
12 cured from cloud computing services;

13 (3) efficiencies that can be achieved by using
14 shared software from an open source repository or
15 platform; and

16 (4) cost savings that could be achieved by po-
17 tential sharing of scientific computing resources
18 across all Foundation grants.

19 **SEC. 120. SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH PRIZES.**

20 The Director shall place a high priority on designing
21 and administering pilot programs for scientific break-
22 through prizes, in conjunction with private entities, that
23 are consistent with Office of Science and Technology Pol-
24 icy guidelines. Breakthrough prizes shall center around
25 technological breakthroughs that are of strategic impor-

1 tance to the Nation, and have the capacity to spur new
2 economic growth.

3 **SEC. 121. ROTATING PERSONNEL.**

4 In order to control the costs to the Foundation of
5 individuals employed pursuant to the Intergovernmental
6 Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 note)—

7 (1) the Foundation shall provide to Congress a
8 written justification and waiver by the Deputy Di-
9 rector in instances in which such an individual is to
10 be paid at a rate that exceeds the maximum rate of
11 pay for the Senior Executive Service, including, if
12 applicable, adjustment for the certified Senior Exec-
13 utive Service Performance Appraisal System;

14 (2) the Foundation shall provide to Congress a
15 written justification and waiver by the Director in
16 instances in which such an individual is to be paid
17 at a rate that exceeds the annual salary rate of the
18 Vice President of the United States; and

19 (3) the Foundation shall provide an annual re-
20 port to Congress on the costs to the Foundation of
21 employing such individuals, including—

22 (A) the timeliness and completeness of
23 Foundation actions in response to recommenda-
24 tions and findings from the Office of Inspector

1 General related to the employment of such indi-
 2 viduals;

3 (B) actions taken by the Foundation to re-
 4 duce the cost to the Foundation of the employ-
 5 ment of such individuals at pay levels that ex-
 6 ceed the threshold described in paragraph (1);

7 (C) the value to the Foundation of employ-
 8 ing individuals pursuant to the Intergovern-
 9 mental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701
 10 note) whose pay is set below the threshold de-
 11 scribed in paragraph (1); and

12 (D) the value to the Foundation of employ-
 13 ing individuals who are not permanent employ-
 14 ees whose pay requires a justification and waiv-
 15 er under paragraph (1) or (2).

16 **SEC. 122. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING INNOVATION**
 17 **CORPS.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that—

19 (1) the Foundation’s Innovation Corps (I-
 20 Corps) was established to foster a national innova-
 21 tion ecosystem by encouraging institutions, sci-
 22 entists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to identify and
 23 explore the innovation and commercial potential of
 24 Foundation-funded research well beyond the labora-
 25 tory;

1 (2) the Foundation’s I-Corps includes invest-
2 ment in entrepreneurship and commercialization
3 education, training, and mentoring, ultimately lead-
4 ing to the practical deployment of technologies,
5 products, processes, and services that improve the
6 Nation’s competitiveness, promote economic growth,
7 and benefit society; and

8 (3) by building networks of entrepreneurs, edu-
9 cators, mentors, institutions, and collaborations, and
10 supporting specialized education and training, I-
11 Corps is at the leading edge of a strong, lasting
12 foundation for an American innovation ecosystem.

13 **SEC. 123. BRAIN RESEARCH THROUGH ADVANCING INNO-**
14 **VATIVE NEUROTECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE.**

15 The Foundation shall support research activities re-
16 lated to the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative
17 Neurotechnologies Initiative. The Foundation is encour-
18 aged to work in conjunction with the Interagency Working
19 Group on Neuroscience (IWGN) to determine how to use
20 the data infrastructure of the Foundation and other appli-
21 cable agencies to help neuroscientists collect, standardize,
22 manage, and analyze the large amounts of data that will
23 result from research attempting to understand how the
24 brain functions.

1 **SEC. 124. NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 10A of the National
3 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.
4 1862n–1a) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by inserting “or
6 bachelor’s” after “master’s”;

7 (2) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
9 graph (2)(B);

10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) by inserting “for teachers with
12 master’s degrees in their field” after
13 “Teaching Fellowships”; and

14 (ii) by striking the period at the end
15 of subparagraph (B) and inserting “;
16 and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(4) in the case of National Science Foundation
20 Master Teaching Fellowships for teachers with bach-
21 elor’s degrees in their field and working toward a
22 master’s degree—

23 “(A) offering academic courses leading to
24 a master’s degree and leadership training to
25 prepare individuals to become master teachers
26 in elementary and secondary schools; and

1 “(B) offering programs both during and
2 after matriculation in the program for which
3 the fellowship is received to enable fellows to
4 become highly effective mathematics and
5 science teachers, including mentoring, training,
6 induction, and professional development activi-
7 ties, to fulfill the service requirements of this
8 section, including the requirements of sub-
9 section (e), and to exchange ideas with others
10 in their fields.”;

11 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection
12 (g)” and inserting “subsection (h)”;

13 (4) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)
14 as subsections (h) through (j), respectively; and

15 (5) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
16 lowing new subsection:

17 “(g) SUPPORT FOR MASTER TEACHING FELLOWS
18 WHILE ENROLLED IN A MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM.—
19 A National Science Foundation Master Teacher Fellow
20 may receive a maximum of 1 year of fellowship support
21 while enrolled in a master’s degree program as described
22 in subsection (c)(4)(A), except that if such fellow is en-
23 rolled in a part-time program, such amount shall be pro-
24 rated according to the length of the program.”.

1 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 10(i)(5) of the National
2 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.
3 1862n–1(i)(5)) is amended by inserting “computer
4 science,” after “means a science,”.

5 **SEC. 125. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.**

6 (a) GRANTS.—The Director, through the Directorate
7 for Education and Human Resources, shall continue to
8 award competitive, merit-reviewed grants to support—

9 (1) research and development of innovative out-
10 of-school STEM learning and emerging STEM
11 learning environments in order to improve STEM
12 learning outcomes and engagement in STEM; and

13 (2) research that advances the field of informal
14 STEM education.

15 (b) USES OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants
16 under this section may encompass a single STEM dis-
17 cipline, multiple STEM disciplines, or integrative STEM
18 initiatives and shall include—

19 (1) research and development that improves our
20 understanding of learning and engagement in infor-
21 mal environments, including the role of informal en-
22 vironments in broadening participation in STEM;
23 and

24 (2) design and testing of innovative STEM
25 learning models, programs, and other resources for

1 informal learning environments to improve STEM
2 learning outcomes and increase engagement for K–
3 12 students, K–12 teachers, and the general public,
4 including design and testing of the scalability of
5 models, programs, and other resources.

6 **TITLE II—SCIENCE, TECH-**
7 **NOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND**
8 **MATHEMATICS**

9 **SEC. 201. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

11 (1) According to the National Science Board’s
12 Science and Engineering Indicators, the science and
13 engineering workforce has shown sustained growth
14 for more than half a century, and workers with
15 science and engineering degrees tend to earn more
16 than comparable workers in other fields.

17 (2) According to the Program for International
18 Student Assessment 2012 results, America lags be-
19 hind many other nations in STEM education. Amer-
20 ican students rank 21st in science and 26th in
21 mathematics.

22 (3) Junior Achievement USA and ING found a
23 decrease of 25 percent in the percentage of teenage
24 students interested in STEM careers.

1 (4) According to a 2007 report from the De-
2 partment of Labor, industries and firms dependent
3 on a strong science and mathematics workforce have
4 launched a variety of programs that target K–12
5 students and undergraduate and graduate students
6 in STEM fields.

7 (5) The Federal Government spends nearly \$3
8 billion annually on STEM education related program
9 and activities, but encouraging STEM education ac-
10 tivities beyond the scope of the Federal Government,
11 including privately sponsored competitions and pro-
12 grams in our schools, is crucial to the future tech-
13 nical and economic competitiveness of the United
14 States.

15 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
16 gress that—

17 (1) more effective coordination and adoption of
18 performance measurement based on objective out-
19 comes for federally supported STEM programs is
20 needed;

21 (2) leveraging private and nonprofit invest-
22 ments in STEM education will be essential to
23 strengthening the Federal STEM portfolio;

24 (3) strengthening the Federal STEM portfolio
25 may require program consolidations and termi-

1 nations, but such changes should be based on evi-
2 dence with stakeholder input;

3 (4) coordinating STEM programs and activities
4 across the Federal Government in order to limit du-
5 plication and engage stakeholders in STEM pro-
6 grams and related activities for which objective out-
7 comes can be measured will bolster results of Fed-
8 eral STEM education programs, improve the return
9 on taxpayers' investments in STEM education pro-
10 grams, and in turn strengthen the United States
11 economy; and

12 (5) as the Committee on STEM Education im-
13 plements the 5-year Strategic Plan for Federal
14 STEM education required under section 101(b)(5)
15 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of
16 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)(5)), STEM education
17 stakeholders must be engaged and outcome-based
18 evaluation metrics should be considered in the co-
19 ordination and consolidation efforts for the Federal
20 STEM portfolio.

21 **SEC. 202. STEM EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish
23 or designate a STEM Education Advisory Panel that in-
24 corporates key stakeholders from the education and indus-

1 try sectors. The co-chairs shall be members of the Presi-
2 dent's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

3 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Advisory Panel estab-
4 lished or designated by the President under subsection (a)
5 shall consist primarily of members from academic institu-
6 tions, nonprofit organizations, and industry and shall in-
7 clude in-school, out-of-school, and informal educational
8 practitioners. Members of the Advisory Panel shall be
9 qualified to provide advice and information on STEM edu-
10 cation research, development, training, implementation,
11 interventions, professional development, or workforce
12 needs or concerns. In selecting or designating an Advisory
13 Panel, the President may also seek and give consideration
14 to recommendations from the Congress, industry, the sci-
15 entific community (including the National Academy of
16 Sciences, scientific professional societies, and academia),
17 State and local governments, and other appropriate orga-
18 nizations.

19 (c) DUTIES.—The Advisory Panel shall advise the
20 President, the Committee on STEM Education, and the
21 STEM Education Coordinating Office established under
22 section 204 on matters relating to STEM education, and
23 shall each year provide general guidance to every Federal
24 agency with STEM education programs or activities, in-
25 cluding in the preparation of requests for appropriations

1 for activities related to STEM education. The Advisory
2 Panel shall also assess and develop recommendations
3 for—

4 (1) progress made in implementing the STEM
5 education Strategic Plan required under section 101
6 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of
7 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621), and any needs or opportuni-
8 ties to update the strategic plan;

9 (2) the management, coordination, and imple-
10 mentation of STEM education programs and activi-
11 ties across the Federal Government;

12 (3) the appropriateness of criteria used by Fed-
13 eral agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of Federal
14 STEM education programs and activities;

15 (4) ways to leverage private and nonprofit
16 STEM investments and encourage public-private
17 partnerships to strengthen STEM education and
18 help build the STEM workforce pipeline;

19 (5) ways to incorporate workforce needs into
20 Federal STEM education programs, particularly in
21 areas experiencing high unemployment rates;

22 (6) ways to better vertically and horizontally in-
23 tegrate Federal STEM programs and activities from
24 pre-K through graduate study and the workforce,
25 and from in-school to out-of-school in order to im-

1 prove transitions for students moving through the
2 STEM pipeline;

3 (7) whether societal and workforce concerns are
4 adequately addressed by current Federal STEM
5 education programs and activities;

6 (8) the extent to which Federal STEM edu-
7 cation programs and activities are contributing to
8 recruitment and retention of women and underrep-
9 resented students in the STEM education and work-
10 force pipeline; and

11 (9) ways to encourage geographic diversity in
12 STEM education and the workforce pipeline.

13 (d) REPORTS.—The Advisory Panel shall report, not
14 less frequently than once every 3 fiscal years, to the Presi-
15 dent and Congress on its assessments under subsection
16 (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve Federal
17 STEM education programs. The first report under this
18 subsection shall be submitted within 1 year after the date
19 of enactment of this Act.

20 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF NON-FEDERAL MEM-
21 BERS.—Non-Federal members of the Advisory Panel,
22 while attending meetings of the Advisory Panel or while
23 otherwise serving at the request of the head of the Advi-
24 sory Panel away from their homes or regular places of
25 business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per

1 diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703
2 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Gov-
3 ernment serving without pay. Nothing in this subsection
4 shall be construed to prohibit members of the Advisory
5 Panel who are officers or employees of the United States
6 from being allowed travel expenses, including per diem in
7 lieu of subsistence, in accordance with existing law.

8 **SEC. 203. COMMITTEE ON STEM EDUCATION.**

9 Section 101 of the America COMPETES Reauthor-
10 ization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621) is amended—

11 (1) in the first subsection (b)—

12 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
13 through (6) as paragraphs (5) through (8), re-
14 spectively;

15 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
16 following new paragraphs:

17 “(3) collaborate with the STEM Education Ad-
18 visory Panel established under section 202 of the
19 America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015
20 and other outside stakeholders to ensure the engage-
21 ment of the STEM education community;

22 “(4) review evaluation measures used for Fed-
23 eral STEM education programs;”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated
2 by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by
3 striking “, periodically update,”; and
4 (2) in the second subsection (b) and in sub-
5 section (c), by striking “subsection (b)(5)” and in-
6 serting “subsection (b)(7)”.

7 **SEC. 204. STEM EDUCATION COORDINATING OFFICE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National
9 Science Foundation shall establish within the Directorate
10 for Education and Human Resources a STEM Education
11 Coordinating Office, which shall have a Director and staff
12 that shall include career employees detailed from Federal
13 agencies that fund STEM education programs and activi-
14 ties.

15 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The STEM Education Co-
16 ordinating Office shall—

17 (1) provide technical and administrative support
18 to—

19 (A) the Committee on STEM Education,
20 especially in its coordination of Federal STEM
21 programs and strategic planning responsibil-
22 ities;

23 (B) the Advisory Panel established under
24 section 202; and

1 (C) Federal agencies with STEM edu-
2 cation programs;

3 (2) periodically update and maintain the inven-
4 tory of federally sponsored STEM education pro-
5 grams and activities established under section
6 101(b)(8) of the America COMPETES Reauthoriza-
7 tion Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621); and

8 (3) provide for dissemination of information on
9 Federal STEM education programs and activities, as
10 appropriate, to stakeholders in academia, industry,
11 nonprofit organizations with expertise in STEM edu-
12 cation, State and local educational agencies, and
13 other STEM stakeholders.

14 (c) REPORT.—The Director of the STEM Education
15 Coordinating Office shall transmit a report annually to
16 Congress not later than 60 days after the submission of
17 the President’s budget request. The annual report shall
18 include—

19 (1) any updates to the inventory required under
20 subsection (b)(2);

21 (2) a description of all consolidations and ter-
22 minations of Federal STEM education programs im-
23 plemented in the previous fiscal year, including an
24 explanation of the reasons for consolidations and
25 terminations;

1 (3) recommendations for consolidations and ter-
 2 minations of STEM education programs or activities
 3 in the upcoming fiscal year;

4 (4) a description of any significant new STEM
 5 Education public-private partnerships; and

6 (5) description of the progress made in carrying
 7 out the strategic plan required under section 101 of
 8 the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of
 9 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621), including a description of
 10 the outcome of any program assessments completed
 11 in the previous year.

12 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF NSF.—The Director of
 13 the National Science Foundation shall encourage and
 14 monitor the efforts of the STEM Education Coordinating
 15 Office to ensure that the Coordinating Office is carrying
 16 out its responsibilities under subsection (b) appropriately.

17 **TITLE III—OFFICE OF SCIENCE** 18 **AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

19 **SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated for the Of-
 21 fice of Science and Technology Policy—

22 (1) \$4,550,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

23 (2) \$4,550,000 for fiscal year 2017.

1 **SEC. 302. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that—

4 (1) high and increasing administrative burdens
5 and costs in Federal research administration, par-
6 ticularly in the higher education sector where most
7 federally sponsored research is performed, are erod-
8 ing funds available to carry out basic scientific re-
9 search;

10 (2) progress has been made over the last decade
11 in streamlining the pre-award grant application
12 process through Grants.gov, the Federal Govern-
13 ment’s website portal;

14 (3) post-award administrative costs have grown
15 as Federal research agencies have continued to im-
16 pose agency-unique compliance and reporting re-
17 quirements on researchers and research institutions;

18 (4) facilities and administration costs at re-
19 search universities can exceed 50 percent of the total
20 value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated
21 that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annu-
22 ally in federally funded research is consumed by pa-
23 perwork and other administrative processes required
24 by Federal agencies; and

25 (5) it is a matter of critical importance to
26 American competitiveness that administrative costs

1 of federally funded research be streamlined so that
2 a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into di-
3 rect research activities.

4 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
5 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working
6 group under the authority of the National Science and
7 Technology Council, to include the Office of Management
8 and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for
9 reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and re-
10 search universities and making recommendations on how
11 to—

12 (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-
13 cative Federal regulations and reporting require-
14 ments;

15 (2) minimize the regulatory burden on United
16 States institutions of higher education performing
17 federally funded research while maintaining account-
18 ability for Federal tax dollars; and

19 (3) identify and update specific regulations to
20 refocus on performance-based goals rather than on
21 process while still meeting the desired outcome.

22 (c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the re-
23 sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group
24 shall take into account input and recommendations from
25 non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and

1 nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher
2 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,
3 nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small
4 businesses, federally funded research and development
5 centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness,
6 efficiency, and accountability in the performance of sci-
7 entific research.

8 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3
10 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on
11 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
13 and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been
14 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working
15 group established under subsection (b).

16 **SEC. 303. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE**
17 **AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of
19 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a body
20 under the National Science and Technology Council with
21 the responsibility to identify and coordinate international
22 science and technology cooperation that can strengthen
23 the United States science and technology enterprise, im-
24 prove economic and national security, and support United
25 States foreign policy goals.

1 (b) NSTC BODY LEADERSHIP.—The body estab-
2 lished under subsection (a) shall be co-chaired by senior
3 level officials from the Office of Science and Technology
4 Policy and the Department of State.

5 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The body established under
6 subsection (a) shall—

7 (1) plan and coordinate interagency inter-
8 national science and technology cooperative research
9 and training activities and partnerships supported or
10 managed by Federal agencies and work with other
11 National Science and Technology Council commit-
12 tees to help plan and coordinate the international
13 component of national science and technology prior-
14 ities;

15 (2) establish Federal priorities and policies for
16 aligning, as appropriate, international science and
17 technology cooperative research and training activi-
18 ties and partnerships supported or managed by Fed-
19 eral agencies with the foreign policy goals of the
20 United States;

21 (3) identify opportunities for new international
22 science and technology cooperative research and
23 training partnerships that advance both the science
24 and technology and the foreign policy priorities of
25 the United States;

1 (4) in carrying out paragraph (3), solicit input
2 and recommendations from non-Federal science and
3 technology stakeholders, including universities, sci-
4 entific and professional societies, industry, and rel-
5 evant organizations and institutions; and

6 (5) identify broad issues that influence the abil-
7 ity of United States scientists and engineers to col-
8 laborate with foreign counterparts, including bar-
9 riers to collaboration and access to scientific infor-
10 mation.

11 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Of-
12 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a re-
13 port, to be updated every 2 years, to the Committee on
14 Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on
15 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and to
16 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
17 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.
18 The report shall also be made available to the public on
19 the reporting agency’s website. The report shall contain
20 a description of—

21 (1) the priorities and policies established under
22 subsection (c)(2);

23 (2) the ongoing and new partnerships estab-
24 lished since the last update to the report;

1 (3) the means by which stakeholder input was
2 received, as well as summary views of stakeholder
3 input; and

4 (4) the issues influencing the ability of United
5 States scientists and engineers to collaborate with
6 foreign counterparts.

7 (e) **ADDITIONAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—The Di-
8 rector of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall
9 transmit, not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act and annually thereafter, to the Com-
11 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Com-
12 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,
13 and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
14 portation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
15 Senate, a report that lists and describes all foreign travel
16 by Office of Science and Technology Policy staff and
17 detailees. Each report shall specify the dates of each trip,
18 the purpose of the trip, Office of Science and Technology
19 Policy participants on the trip, total Office of Science and
20 Technology Policy costs associated with the trip, and de-
21 tails of all international meetings, including meeting par-
22 ticipants and topics addressed.

23 **SEC. 304. ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH FUNDING MODELS.**

24 (a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**—The heads of
25 Federal science agencies, in consultation with the Director

1 of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall con-
2 duct appropriate pilot programs to validate alternative re-
3 search funding models, including—

4 (1) scientific breakthrough prize programs that
5 are of strategic importance to the Nation and have
6 the capacity to spur new economic growth; and

7 (2) novel mechanisms of funding including ob-
8 taining non-Federal funds through crowd source
9 funding.

10 (b) NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—A pilot program
11 may be conducted under this section through an agree-
12 ment, grant, or contractual relationship with a non-Fed-
13 eral entity regarding the design, administration, and fund-
14 ing of the program.

15 (c) PRIZE COMPETITION JUDGES.—

16 (1) REQUIREMENTS.—Judges for a prize com-
17 petition carried out under this section shall not be
18 required to be Federal employees. An individual who
19 serves as a judge for a prize competition carried out
20 under this section who is not a Federal employee
21 shall be required to sign an agreement, developed by
22 the Office of Science and Technology Policy, with re-
23 spect to nondisclosure, conflict of interest, and judg-
24 ing code of conduct requirements.

1 (2) DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL IN-
2 TERESTS.—A judge for a prize competition with a
3 total purse of \$10,000 or more, or for an aggregate
4 of prize competitions with a total purse of \$50,000
5 or more, shall be required to disclose all personal fi-
6 nancial interests.

7 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30
8 days after the Office of Science and Technology Pol-
9 icy completes development of an agreement under
10 paragraph (1), it shall transmit a report to Congress
11 describing the requirements of such agreement.

12 (d) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The heads of Federal science
13 agencies shall widely advertise prize competitions to be
14 conducted under this section to ensure maximum partici-
15 pation.

16 (e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
17 term “Federal science agency” means—

18 (1) the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
19 istration;

20 (2) the National Science Foundation;

21 (3) the National Institute of Standards and
22 Technology; and

23 (4) the National Weather Service.

24 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually

1 thereafter as part of the annual budget submission to Con-
2 gress, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
3 Policy shall transmit to the Congress a report on pro-
4 grams identified and conducted under subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 305. AMENDMENTS TO PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

6 Section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-
7 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (c)—

9 (A) by inserting “competition” after “sec-
10 tion, a prize”;

11 (B) by inserting “types” after “following”;

12 and

13 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “prizes”
14 and inserting “prize competitions”;

15 (2) in subsection (f)—

16 (A) by striking “in the Federal Register”
17 and inserting “on a publicly accessible Govern-
18 ment website, such as www.challenge.gov,”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “prize”
20 and inserting “cash prize purse”;

21 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “prize” and
22 inserting “cash prize purse”;

23 (4) in subsection (h), by inserting “prize” be-
24 fore “competition” both places it appears;

25 (5) in subsection (i)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting
2 “prize” before “competition”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting
4 “prize” before “competition” both places it ap-
5 pears;

6 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
7 paragraph (4); and

8 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
9 following new paragraph:

10 “(3) WAIVER.—An agency may waive the re-
11 quirement under paragraph (2). The annual report
12 under subsection (p) shall include a list of such
13 waivers granted during the preceding fiscal year,
14 along with a detailed explanation of the reasons for
15 granting the waivers.”;

16 (6) in subsection (k)—

17 (A) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting
18 “prize” before “competition”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “prize”
20 before “competitions” both places it appears;

21 (7) in subsection (l), by striking all after “may
22 enter into” and inserting “a grant, contract, cooper-
23 ative agreement, or other agreement with a private
24 sector for-profit or nonprofit entity to administer the

1 prize competition, subject to the provisions of this
2 section.”;

3 (8) in subsection (m)—

4 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Support for a prize com-
7 petition under this section, including financial sup-
8 port for the design and administration of a prize
9 competition or funds for a cash prize purse, may
10 consist of Federal appropriated funds and funds
11 provided by private sector for-profit and nonprofit
12 entities. The head of an agency may accept funds
13 from other Federal agencies, private sector for-profit
14 entities, and nonprofit entities to support such prize
15 competitions. The head of an agency may not give
16 any special consideration to any private sector for-
17 profit or nonprofit entity in return for a donation.”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prize
19 awards” and inserting “cash prize purses”;

20 (C) in paragraph (3)(A)—

21 (i) by striking “No prize” and insert-
22 ing “No prize competition”; and

23 (ii) by striking “the prize” and insert-
24 ing “the cash prize purse”;

1 (D) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “a
2 prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse”;

3 (E) in paragraph (3)(B)(i), by inserting
4 “competition” after “prize”;

5 (F) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “a
6 prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse”; and

7 (G) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “cash
8 prizes” and inserting “cash prize purses”;

9 (9) in subsection (n), by inserting “for both for-
10 profit and nonprofit entities,” after “contract vehi-
11 cle”;

12 (10) in subsection (o)(1), by striking “or pro-
13 viding a prize” and insert “a prize competition or
14 providing a cash prize purse”; and

15 (11) in subsection (p)(2)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “cash
17 prizes” both places it occurs and inserting
18 “cash prize purses”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following new
20 subparagraph:

21 “(G) PLAN.—A description of crosscutting
22 topical areas and agency-specific mission needs
23 that may be the strongest opportunities for
24 prize competitions during the upcoming 2 fiscal
25 years.”.

1 **SEC. 306. UNITED STATES CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.**

2 Title II of the National Science and Technology Pol-
3 icy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C.
4 6611 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 “UNITED STATES CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

7 “SEC. 210. (a) APPOINTMENT.—The President may
8 appoint a United States Chief Technology Officer. Not
9 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Amer-
10 ica COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, such offi-
11 cer shall be one of the Associate Directors of the Office
12 of Science and Technology Policy.

13 “(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the United States Chief
14 Technology Officer should include—

15 “(1) advising the President and the Director of
16 the Office of Science and Technology Policy on Fed-
17 eral information systems, technology, data, and in-
18 novation policies and initiatives;

19 “(2) promoting an improved exchange of infor-
20 mation among the Federal Government, the public,
21 and Congress;

22 “(3) promoting the use of innovative techno-
23 logical approaches across the Federal Government to
24 ensure a modern information technology infrastruc-
25 ture;

1 “(4) working with the Chief Technology Offi-
2 cers and Chief Information Officers of all Federal
3 agencies to ensure the use of best technologies and
4 security practices for information systems;

5 “(5) establishing a working group with such Of-
6 ficers to exchange best practices about information
7 systems;

8 “(6) promoting transparency and accountability
9 across the Federal Government for all technological
10 implementation by working with agencies to ensure
11 that each arm of the Federal Government, including
12 the executive branch, makes its records open and ac-
13 cessible;

14 “(7) promoting security and privacy protection
15 policies for all Federal information technology sys-
16 tems that are consistent with Federal law, regula-
17 tions, and current best practices;

18 “(8) promoting technological interoperability of
19 key Government functions;

20 “(9) in consultation with the Office of Manage-
21 ment and Budget, providing an annual report to the
22 President, the Director of the Office of Science and
23 Technology Policy, and Congress on the current
24 state of information systems of all Federal agencies,
25 including—

1 “(A) the status of information systems, in-
2 cluding potential technology and security con-
3 cerns about these information systems in all
4 Federal agencies;

5 “(B) a review of all Federal websites with
6 third-party embedded tools that—

7 “(i) identifies each embedded tool,
8 who it belongs to, and the data it collects;
9 and

10 “(ii) addresses effects on cybersecu-
11 rity and consumer privacy, including
12 whether each website provides prominent
13 notice to consumers about the presence of
14 the tool and whether the consumer may
15 opt-out of the tool;

16 “(C) the amount of money being spent on
17 various technologies; and

18 “(D) technology recommendations and best
19 practices; and

20 “(10) such other functions and activities as the
21 President and Director of the Office of Science and
22 Technology Policy may assign.

23 “(c) REPORT.—In the absence of a United States
24 Chief Technology Officer, the Director of the Office of

1 Science and Technology Policy shall be responsible for
2 providing the report required under subsection (b)(9).”.

3 **SEC. 307. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY ON TECH-**
4 **NOLOGY FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS**
5 **ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office
8 of Science and Technology Policy shall enter into an ar-
9 rangement with the National Research Council to conduct
10 and complete a study to identify and review technologies
11 employed at institutions of higher education to provide no-
12 tifications to students, faculty, and other personnel during
13 emergency situations in accordance with the requirements
14 of existing law. The study shall address—

15 (1) the timeliness of notifications during emer-
16 gency situations provided by various technologies;

17 (2) the durability of such technologies in deliv-
18 ering such notifications to students, faculty, and
19 other personnel; and

20 (3) the limitations exhibited by such tech-
21 nologies to successfully deliver notifications not more
22 than 30 seconds after the institution of higher edu-
23 cation transmits such notifications.

24 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after
25 the date on which the National Research Council enters

1 into the arrangement required by subsection (a), the Di-
2 rector of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall
3 submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under
4 such subsection.

5 **TITLE IV—NATIONAL INSTITUTE**
6 **OF STANDARDS AND TECH-**
7 **NOLOGY**

8 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 (a) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
11 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce
12 \$933,700,000 for the National Institute of Stand-
13 ards and Technology for fiscal year 2016.

14 (2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount
15 authorized by paragraph (1)—

16 (A) \$744,700,000 shall be for scientific
17 and technical research and services laboratory
18 activities;

19 (B) \$59,000,000 shall be for the construc-
20 tion and maintenance of facilities; and

21 (C) \$130,000,000 shall be for industrial
22 technology services activities, of which
23 \$125,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing
24 Extension Partnership program under sections
25 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Stand-

1 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and
2 278I) and \$5,000,000 shall be for the Network
3 for Manufacturing Innovation Program under
4 section 34 of the National Institute of Stand-
5 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s).

6 (b) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
8 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce
9 \$933,700,000 for the National Institute of Stand-
10 ards and Technology for fiscal year 2017.

11 (2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount
12 authorized by paragraph (1)—

13 (A) \$744,700,000 shall be for scientific
14 and technical research and services laboratory
15 activities;

16 (B) \$59,000,000 shall be for the construc-
17 tion and maintenance of facilities; and

18 (C) \$130,000,000 shall be for industrial
19 technology services activities, of which
20 \$125,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing
21 Extension Partnership program under sections
22 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Stand-
23 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and
24 278I) and \$5,000,000 shall be for the Network
25 for Manufacturing Innovation Program under

1 section 34 of the National Institute of Stand-
2 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s).

3 **SEC. 402. STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.**

4 Section 2 of the National Institute of Standards and
5 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
8 by striking “authorized to take” and inserting
9 “authorized to serve as the President’s principal
10 adviser on standards policy pertaining to the
11 Nation’s technological competitiveness and in-
12 novation ability and to take”;

13 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “compare
14 standards” and all that follows through “Fed-
15 eral Government” and inserting “facilitate
16 standards-related information sharing and co-
17 operation between Federal agencies”; and

18 (C) in paragraph (13), by striking “Fed-
19 eral, State, and local” and all that follows
20 through “private sector” and inserting “tech-
21 nical standards activities and conformity assess-
22 ment activities of Federal, State, and local gov-
23 ernments with private sector”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (21), by striking “and”
 2 after the semicolon;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (22) as
 4 paragraph (24); and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (21) the
 6 following:

7 “(22) participate in and support scientific and
 8 technical conferences;

9 “(23) perform pre-competitive measurement
 10 science and technology research in partnership with
 11 institutions of higher education and industry to pro-
 12 mote United States industrial competitiveness; and”.

13 **SEC. 403. VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECH-**
 14 **NOLOGY.**

15 Section 10 of the National Institute of Standards and
 16 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) by striking “15 members” and insert-
 19 ing “not fewer than 11 members”;

20 (B) by striking “at least 10” and inserting
 21 “at least two-thirds”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following:
 23 “The Committee may consult with the National
 24 Research Council in making recommendations
 25 regarding general policy for the Institute.”; and

1 (2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “, including
2 the Program established under section 28,”.

3 **SEC. 404. POLICE AND SECURITY AUTHORITY.**

4 Section 15 of the National Institute of Standards and
5 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278e) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “of the Government; and” and
7 inserting “of the Government;”; and

8 (2) by striking “United States Code.” and in-
9 serting “United States Code; and (i) the protection
10 of Institute buildings and other plant facilities,
11 equipment, and property, and of employees, associ-
12 ates, visitors, or other persons located therein or as-
13 sociated therewith, notwithstanding any other provi-
14 sion of law.”.

15 **SEC. 405. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

16 The National Institute of Standards and Technology
17 Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by striking sec-
18 tions 18, 19, and 19A and inserting the following:

19 **“SEC. 18. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may support, pro-
21 mote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance pub-
22 lic awareness and understanding of measurement sciences,
23 standards, and technology by the general public, industry,
24 and academia in support of the Institute’s mission.

25 “(b) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may award
2 research fellowships and other forms of financial and
3 logistical assistance, including direct stipend awards,
4 to—

5 “(A) students at institutions of higher edu-
6 cation within the United States who show
7 promise as present or future contributors to the
8 mission of the Institute; and

9 “(B) United States citizens for research
10 and technical activities of the Institute.

11 “(2) SELECTION.—The Director shall select
12 persons to receive such fellowships and assistance on
13 the basis of ability and of the relevance of the pro-
14 posed work to the mission and programs of the In-
15 stitute.

16 “(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this
17 subsection, financial and logistical assistance in-
18 cludes, notwithstanding section 1345 of title 31,
19 United States Code, or any contrary provision of
20 law, temporary housing and local transportation to
21 and from the Institute facilities.

22 “(c) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—The
23 Director shall establish and conduct a post-doctoral fellow-
24 ship program, subject to the availability of appropriations,
25 that shall include not fewer than 20 fellows per fiscal year.

1 In evaluating applications for fellowships under this sub-
2 section, the Director shall give consideration to the goal
3 of promoting the participation of underrepresented stu-
4 dents in research areas supported by the Institute.”.

5 **SEC. 406. PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING REPORT.**

6 Section 23(d) of the National Institute of Standards
7 and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278i(d)) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following: “The 3-year pro-
9 grammatic planning document shall also describe how the
10 Director is addressing recommendations from the Visiting
11 Committee on Advanced Technology established under
12 section 10.”.

13 **SEC. 407. ASSESSMENTS BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH**
14 **COUNCIL.**

15 (a) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEW.—
16 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of
17 this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Stand-
18 ards and Technology shall enter into a contract with the
19 National Academy of Sciences to conduct a single, com-
20 prehensive review of the Institute’s laboratory programs.
21 The review shall—

22 (1) assess the technical merits and scientific
23 caliber of the research conducted at the laboratories;

(3) evaluate how cross-cutting research and development activities are planned, coordinated, and executed across the laboratories; and

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.—Section 24 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278j) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall contract with
17 the National Research Council to perform and report on
18 assessments of the technical quality and impact of the
19 work conducted at Institute laboratories.

20 “(b) SCHEDULE.—Two laboratories shall be assessed
21 under subsection (a) each year, and each laboratory shall
22 be assessed at least once every 3 years.

23 “(c) SUMMARY REPORT.—Beginning in the year
24 after the first assessment is conducted under subsection
25 (a), and once every two years thereafter, the Institute shall

1 contract with the National Research Council to prepare
2 a report that summarizes the findings common across the
3 individual assessment reports.

4 “(d) ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.—The Institute, at
5 the discretion of the Director, also may contract with the
6 National Research Council to conduct additional assess-
7 ments of Institute programs and projects that involve col-
8 laboration across the Institute laboratories and centers
9 and assessments of selected scientific and technical topics.

10 “(e) CONSULTATION WITH VISITING COMMITTEE ON
11 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.—The National Research Coun-
12 cil may consult with the Visiting Committee on Advanced
13 Technology established under section 10 in performing the
14 assessments under this section.

15 “(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the
16 completion of each assessment, the Institute shall transmit
17 the report on such assessment to the Committee on
18 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
20 and Transportation of the Senate.”.

21 **SEC. 408. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PART-**
22 **NERSHIP.**

23 Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and
24 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as
25 follows:

1 **“SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PART-**
2 **NERSHIP.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the
5 Director and, if appropriate, through other officials,
6 shall provide assistance for the creation and support
7 of manufacturing extension centers, to be known as
8 the ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension Centers’, for
9 the transfer of manufacturing technology and best
10 business practices (in this Act referred to as the
11 ‘Centers’). The program under this section shall be
12 known as the ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension
13 Partnership’.

14 “(2) AFFILIATIONS.—Such Centers shall be af-
15 filiated with any United States-based public or non-
16 profit institution or organization, or group thereof,
17 that applies for and is awarded financial assistance
18 under this section.

19 “(3) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Centers
20 is to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and
21 technological performance in United States manufac-
22 turing through—

23 “(A) the transfer of manufacturing tech-
24 nology and techniques developed at the Insti-
25 tute to Centers and, through them, to manufac-
26 turing companies throughout the United States;

1 “(B) the participation of individuals from
2 industry, institutions of higher education, State
3 governments, other Federal agencies, and, when
4 appropriate, the Institute in cooperative tech-
5 nology transfer activities;

6 “(C) efforts to make new manufacturing
7 technology and processes usable by United
8 States-based small and medium-sized compa-
9 nies;

10 “(D) the active dissemination of scientific,
11 engineering, technical, and management infor-
12 mation about manufacturing to industrial firms,
13 including small and medium-sized manufac-
14 turing companies;

15 “(E) the utilization, when appropriate, of
16 the expertise and capability that exists in Fed-
17 eral laboratories other than the Institute;

18 “(F) the provision to community colleges
19 and area career and technical education schools
20 of information about the job skills needed in
21 small and medium-sized manufacturing busi-
22 nesses in the regions they serve; and

23 “(G) promoting and expanding certifi-
24 cation systems offered through industry, asso-
25 ciations, and local colleges, when appropriate.

1 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Centers shall
2 include—

3 “(1) the establishment of automated manufac-
4 turing systems and other advanced production tech-
5 nologies, based on Institute-supported research, for
6 the purpose of demonstrations and technology trans-
7 fer;

8 “(2) the active transfer and dissemination of re-
9 search findings and Center expertise to a wide range
10 of companies and enterprises, particularly small and
11 medium-sized manufacturers; and

12 “(3) the facilitation of collaborations and part-
13 nerships between small and medium-sized manufac-
14 turing companies and community colleges and area
15 career and technical education schools to help such
16 colleges and schools better understand the specific
17 needs of manufacturers and to help manufacturers
18 better understand the skill sets that students learn
19 in the programs offered by such colleges and schools.

20 “(c) OPERATIONS.—

21 “(1) FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary may
22 provide financial support to any Center created
23 under subsection (a). The Secretary may not provide
24 to a Center more than 50 percent of the capital and

1 annual operating and maintenance funds required to
2 create and maintain such Center.

3 “(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall im-
4 plement, review, and update the sections of the Code
5 of Federal Regulations related to this section at
6 least once every 3 years.

7 “(3) APPLICATION.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any nonprofit institu-
9 tion, or consortium thereof, or State or local
10 government, may submit to the Secretary an
11 application for financial support under this sec-
12 tion, in accordance with the procedures estab-
13 lished by the Secretary.

14 “(B) COST SHARING.—In order to receive
15 assistance under this section, an applicant for
16 financial assistance under subparagraph (A)
17 shall provide adequate assurances that non-
18 Federal assets obtained from the applicant and
19 the applicant’s partnering organizations will be
20 used as a funding source to meet not less than
21 50 percent of the costs incurred. For purposes
22 of the preceding sentence, the costs incurred
23 means the costs incurred in connection with the
24 activities undertaken to improve the competi-
25 tiveness, management, productivity, and techno-

1 logical performance of small and medium-sized
2 manufacturing companies.

3 “(C) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTI-
4 TIES.—In meeting the 50-percent requirement,
5 it is anticipated that a Center will enter into
6 agreements with other entities such as private
7 industry, institutions of higher education, and
8 State governments to accomplish programmatic
9 objectives and access new and existing resources
10 that will further the impact of the Federal in-
11 vestment made on behalf of small and medium-
12 sized manufacturing companies.

13 “(D) LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant
14 under subparagraph (A) shall also submit a
15 proposal for the allocation of the legal rights as-
16 sociated with any invention which may result
17 from the proposed Center’s activities.

18 “(4) MERIT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall sub-
19 ject each such application to merit review. In mak-
20 ing a decision whether to approve such application
21 and provide financial support under this section, the
22 Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(A) The merits of the application, par-
25 ticularly those portions of the application re-

1 garding technology transfer, training and edu-
 2 cation, and adaptation of manufacturing tech-
 3 nologies to the needs of particular industrial
 4 sectors.

5 “(B) The quality of service to be provided.

6 “(C) Geographical diversity and extent of
 7 service area.

8 “(D) The percentage of funding and
 9 amount of in-kind commitment from other
 10 sources.

11 “(5) EVALUATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Center that re-
 13 ceives financial assistance under this section
 14 shall be evaluated during its third year of oper-
 15 ation by an evaluation panel appointed by the
 16 Secretary.

17 “(B) COMPOSITION.—Each such evalua-
 18 tion panel shall be composed of private experts,
 19 none of whom shall be connected with the in-
 20 volved Center, and Federal officials.

21 “(C) CHAIR.—An official of the Institute
 22 shall chair the panel.

23 “(D) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.—
 24 Each evaluation panel shall measure the in-

1 involved Center’s performance against the objec-
2 tives specified in this section.

3 “(E) POSITIVE EVALUATION.—If the eval-
4 uation is positive, the Secretary may provide
5 continued funding through the sixth year.

6 “(F) PROBATION.—The Secretary shall
7 not provide funding unless the Center has re-
8 ceived a positive evaluation. A Center that has
9 not received a positive evaluation by the evalua-
10 tion panel shall be notified by the panel of the
11 deficiencies in its performance and shall be
12 placed on probation for one year, after which
13 time the panel shall reevaluate the Center. If
14 the Center has not addressed the deficiencies
15 identified by the panel, or shown a significant
16 improvement in its performance, the Director
17 shall conduct a new competition to select an op-
18 erator for the Center or may close the Center.

19 “(G) ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—
20 After the sixth year, a Center may receive addi-
21 tional financial support under this section if it
22 has received a positive evaluation through an
23 independent review, under procedures estab-
24 lished by the Institute.

1 “(H) EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW.—A Center
2 shall undergo an independent review in the 8th
3 year of operation. Each evaluation panel shall
4 measure the Center’s performance against the
5 objectives specified in this section. A Center
6 that has not received a positive evaluation as a
7 result of an independent review shall be notified
8 by the Program of the deficiencies in its per-
9 formance and shall be placed on probation for
10 one year, after which time the Program shall
11 reevaluate the Center. If the Center has not ad-
12 dressed the deficiencies identified by the review,
13 or shown a significant improvement in its per-
14 formance, the Director shall conduct a new
15 competition to select an operator for the Center
16 or may close the Center.

17 “(I) RECOMPETITION.—If a recipient of a
18 Center award has received financial assistance
19 for 10 consecutive years, the Director shall con-
20 duct a new competition to select an operator for
21 the Center consistent with the plan required in
22 this Act. Incumbent Center operators in good
23 standing shall be eligible to compete for the new
24 award.

25 “(J) REPORTS.—

1 “(i) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of the America
3 COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015,
4 the Director shall transmit to the Com-
5 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology
6 of the House of Representatives and the
7 Committee on Commerce, Science, and
8 Transportation of the Senate a plan as to
9 how the Institute will conduct reviews, as-
10 sessments, and reapplication competitions
11 under this paragraph.

12 “(ii) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—
13 The Director shall contract with an inde-
14 pendent organization to perform an assess-
15 ment of the implementation of the re-
16 application competition process under this
17 paragraph within 3 years after the trans-
18 mittal of the report under clause (i). The
19 organization conducting the assessment
20 under this clause may consult with the
21 MEP Advisory Board.

22 “(iii) COMPARISON OF CENTERS.—
23 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
24 actment of the America COMPETES Re-
25 authorization Act of 2015, the Director

1 shall transmit to the Committee on
2 Science, Space, and Technology of the
3 House of Representatives and the Com-
4 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
5 portation of the Senate a report providing
6 information on the first and second years
7 of operations for centers operating from
8 new competitions or recompetition as com-
9 pared to longstanding centers. The report
10 shall provide detail on the engagement in
11 services provided by Centers and the char-
12 acteristics of services provided, including
13 volume and type of services, so that the
14 Committees can evaluate whether the cost-
15 sharing ratio has an effect on the services
16 provided at Centers.

17 “(6) PATENT RIGHTS.—The provisions of chap-
18 ter 18 of title 35, United States Code, shall apply,
19 to the extent not inconsistent with this section, to
20 the promotion of technology from research by Cen-
21 ters under this section except for contracts for such
22 specific technology extension or transfer services as
23 may be specified by statute or by the Director.

24 “(7) PROTECTION OF CENTER CLIENT CON-
25 FIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Section 552 of title 5,

1 United States Code, shall apply to the following in-
2 formation obtained by the Federal Government on a
3 confidential basis in connection with the activities of
4 any participant involved in the Hollings Manufac-
5 turing Extension Partnership:

6 “(A) Information on the business operation
7 of any participant in a Hollings Manufacturing
8 Extension Partnership program or of a client of
9 a Center.

10 “(B) Trade secrets possessed by any client
11 of a Center.

12 “(8) ADVISORY BOARDS.—Each Center’s advi-
13 sory boards shall institute a conflict of interest pol-
14 icy, approved by the Director, that ensures the
15 Board represents local small and medium-sized man-
16 ufacturers in the Center’s region. Board Members
17 may not serve as a vendor or provide services to the
18 Center, nor may they serve on more than one Cen-
19 ter’s oversight board simultaneously.

20 “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to such sums
22 as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Direc-
23 tor to operate the Hollings Manufacturing Extension
24 Partnership, the Secretary and Director also may
25 accept funds from other Federal departments and

1 agencies and, under section 2(c)(7), from the private
2 sector for the purpose of strengthening United
3 States manufacturing.

4 “(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

5 “(A) FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM OTHER FED-
6 ERAL DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES.—The Di-
7 rector shall determine whether funds accepted
8 from other Federal departments or agencies
9 shall be counted in the calculation of the Fed-
10 eral share of capital and annual operating and
11 maintenance costs under subsection (c).

12 “(B) FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM THE PRI-
13 VATE SECTOR.—Funds accepted from the pri-
14 vate sector under section 2(c)(7), if allocated to
15 a Center, may not be considered in the calcula-
16 tion of the Federal share under subsection (c)
17 of this section.

18 “(e) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—

19 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
20 within the Institute a Manufacturing Extension
21 Partnership Advisory Board (in this subsection re-
22 ferred to as the ‘MEP Advisory Board’).

23 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The MEP Advisory
25 Board shall consist of not fewer than 10 mem-

1 bers broadly representative of stakeholders, to
2 be appointed by the Director. At least 2 mem-
3 bers shall be employed by or on an advisory
4 board for the Centers, at least 1 member shall
5 represent a community college, and at least 5
6 other members shall be from United States
7 small businesses in the manufacturing sector.
8 No member shall be an employee of the Federal
9 Government.

10 “(B) TERM.—Except as provided in sub-
11 paragraph (C) or (D), the term of office of each
12 member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be 3
13 years.

14 “(C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
15 to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expira-
16 tion of the term for which his predecessor was
17 appointed shall be appointed for the remainder
18 of such term.

19 “(D) SERVING CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—
20 Any person who has completed two consecutive
21 full terms of service on the MEP Advisory
22 Board shall thereafter be ineligible for appoint-
23 ment during the one-year period following the
24 expiration of the second such term.

1 “(3) MEETINGS.—The MEP Advisory Board
2 shall meet not less than 2 times annually and shall
3 provide to the Director—

4 “(A) advice on Hollings Manufacturing
5 Extension Partnership programs, plans, and
6 policies;

7 “(B) assessments of the soundness of Hol-
8 lings Manufacturing Extension Partnership
9 plans and strategies; and

10 “(C) assessments of current performance
11 against Hollings Manufacturing Extension
12 Partnership program plans.

13 “(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT AP-
14 PLICABILITY.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In discharging its du-
16 ties under this subsection, the MEP Advisory
17 Board shall function solely in an advisory ca-
18 pacity, in accordance with the Federal Advisory
19 Committee Act.

20 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 14 of the Fed-
21 eral Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to
22 the MEP Advisory Board.

23 “(5) REPORT.—The MEP Advisory Board shall
24 transmit an annual report to the Secretary for
25 transmittal to Congress within 30 days after the

1 submission to Congress of the President’s annual
2 budget request in each year. Such report shall ad-
3 dress the status of the program established pursuant
4 to this section and comment on the relevant sections
5 of the programmatic planning document and updates
6 thereto transmitted to Congress by the Director
7 under subsections (c) and (d) of section 23.

8 “(f) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall es-
10 tablish, within the Hollings Manufacturing Exten-
11 sion Partnership, under this section and section 26,
12 a program of competitive awards among participants
13 described in paragraph (2) for the purposes de-
14 scribed in paragraph (3).

15 “(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving
16 awards under this subsection shall be the Centers, or
17 a consortium of such Centers.

18 “(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program
19 under this subsection is to add capabilities to the
20 Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, in-
21 cluding the development of projects to solve new or
22 emerging manufacturing problems as determined by
23 the Director, in consultation with the Director of the
24 Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership pro-
25 gram, the MEP Advisory Board, and small and me-

1 dium-sized manufacturers. One or more themes for
2 the competition may be identified, which may vary
3 from year to year, depending on the needs of manu-
4 facturers and the success of previous competitions.
5 Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred under
6 the program.

7 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards
8 under this subsection shall be submitted in such
9 manner, at such time, and containing such informa-
10 tion as the Director shall require, in consultation
11 with the MEP Advisory Board.

12 “(5) SELECTION.—Awards under this sub-
13 section shall be peer reviewed and competitively
14 awarded. The Director shall endeavor to have broad
15 geographic diversity among selected proposals. The
16 Director shall select proposals to receive awards that
17 will—

18 “(A) improve the competitiveness of indus-
19 tries in the region in which the Center or Cen-
20 ters are located;

21 “(B) create jobs or train newly hired em-
22 ployees; and

23 “(C) promote the transfer and commer-
24 cialization of research and technology from in-

1 stitutions of higher education, national labora-
2 tories, and nonprofit research institutes.

3 “(6) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of
4 awards under this subsection shall not be required
5 to provide a matching contribution.

6 “(7) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In
7 making awards under this subsection, the Director,
8 in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and
9 the Secretary, may take into consideration whether
10 an application has significant potential for enhanc-
11 ing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized
12 United States manufacturers in the global market-
13 place.

14 “(8) DURATION.—Awards under this subsection
15 shall last no longer than 3 years.

16 “(g) EVALUATION OF OBSTACLES UNIQUE TO SMALL
17 MANUFACTURERS.—The Director shall—

18 “(1) evaluate obstacles that are unique to small
19 manufacturers that prevent such manufacturers
20 from effectively competing in the global market;

21 “(2) implement a comprehensive plan to train
22 the Centers to address such obstacles; and

23 “(3) facilitate improved communication between
24 the Centers to assist such manufacturers in imple-

1 menting appropriate, targeted solutions to such ob-
2 stacles.

3 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 “(1) the term ‘area career and technical edu-
5 cation school’ has the meaning given such term in
6 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
7 nical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (20
8 U.S.C. 2302); and

9 “(2) the term ‘community college’ means an in-
10 stitution of higher education (as defined under sec-
11 tion 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
12 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree
13 that is predominately awarded to students is an as-
14 sociate’s degree.”.

15 **SEC. 409. ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTS.**

16 (a) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION
17 AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES REPORT.—Section 3
18 of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C.
19 278g–5) is amended—

20 (1) by striking subsection (c); and

21 (2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as
22 subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

23 (b) TIP REPORTS.—Section 28 of the National Insti-
24 tute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n)
25 is amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (g); and

2 (2) in subsection (k), by striking paragraph (5).

3 **SEC. 410. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE**
4 **AGREEMENTS.**

5 Section 8(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology In-
6 novation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended by
7 striking “The total amount of any such grant or coopera-
8 tive agreement may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost
9 of the program.”.

10 **SEC. 411. INFORMATION SYSTEMS STANDARDS CONSULTA-**
11 **TION.**

12 Section 20(c)(1) of the National Institute of Stand-
13 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3(c)(1)) is
14 amended by striking “the National Security Agency,”.

15 **SEC. 412. UNITED STATES–ISRAELI COOPERATION.**

16 It is the Sense of Congress that—

17 (1) partnerships that facilitate basic scientific
18 research between the United States and Israel ad-
19 vance technology development, innovation, and com-
20 mercialization leading to growth in various sectors,
21 including manufacturing, and creating benefits for
22 both nations;

23 (2) joint research and development agreements
24 carried out through government organizations like

1 the National Institute of Standards and Technology
2 support these efforts;

3 (3) partnerships between the United States and
4 Israel that further the basic scientific enterprise
5 should be encouraged; and

6 (4) the National Institute of Standards and
7 Technology should continue its role as facilitator of
8 scientific collaborations between Israel and United
9 States cities, States, businesses, academic institu-
10 tions, and scientific foundations.

11 **TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF** 12 **ENERGY SCIENCE**

13 **SEC. 501. MISSION.**

14 Section 209 of the Department of Energy Organiza-
15 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 7139) is amended by adding at the
16 end the following:

17 “(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of Science
18 shall be the delivery of scientific discoveries, capabilities,
19 and major scientific tools to transform the understanding
20 of nature and to advance the energy, economic, and na-
21 tional security of the United States. In support of this
22 mission, the Director shall carry out programs on basic
23 energy sciences, advanced scientific computing research,
24 high energy physics, biological and environmental re-
25 search, fusion energy sciences, and nuclear physics, includ-

1 ing as provided under subtitle A of title V of the America
2 COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, through activi-
3 ties focused on—

4 “(1) fundamental scientific discoveries through
5 the study of matter and energy;

6 “(2) science in the national interest, includ-
7 ing—

8 “(A) advancing an agenda for American
9 energy security through research on energy pro-
10 duction, storage, transmission, efficiency, and
11 use; and

12 “(B) advancing our understanding of the
13 Earth’s climate through research in atmos-
14 pheric and environmental sciences; and

15 “(3) National Scientific User Facilities to de-
16 liver the 21st century tools of science, engineering,
17 and technology and provide the Nation’s researchers
18 with the most advanced tools of modern science in-
19 cluding accelerators, colliders, supercomputers, light
20 sources and neutron sources, and facilities for study-
21 ing materials science.

22 “(d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENT OF
23 ENERGY PROGRAMS.—The Under Secretary for Science
24 and Energy shall ensure the coordination of Office of

1 Science activities and programs with other activities of the
2 Department.”.

3 **SEC. 502. BASIC ENERGY SCIENCES.**

4 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a pro-
5 gram in basic energy sciences, including materials sciences
6 and engineering, chemical sciences, physical biosciences,
7 and geosciences, for the purpose of providing the scientific
8 foundations for new energy technologies.

9 (b) MISSION.—The mission of the program described
10 in subsection (a) shall be to support fundamental research
11 to understand, predict, and ultimately control matter and
12 energy at the electronic, atomic, and molecular levels in
13 order to provide the foundations for new energy tech-
14 nologies and to support Department missions in energy,
15 environment, and national security.

16 (c) BASIC ENERGY SCIENCES USER FACILITIES.—
17 The Director shall carry out a subprogram for the develop-
18 ment, construction, operation, and maintenance of na-
19 tional user facilities to support the program under this
20 section. As practicable, these facilities shall serve the
21 needs of the Department, industry, the academic commu-
22 nity, and other relevant entities to create and examine new
23 materials and chemical processes for the purposes of ad-
24 vancing new energy technologies and improving the com-

1 petitiveness of the United States. These facilities shall in-
2 clude—

- 3 (1) x-ray light sources;
- 4 (2) neutron sources;
- 5 (3) nanoscale science research centers; and
- 6 (4) other facilities the Director considers appro-
7 priate, consistent with section 209 of the Depart-
8 ment of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7139).

9 (d) LIGHT SOURCE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In support of the sub-
11 program authorized in subsection (c), the Director
12 shall establish an initiative to sustain and advance
13 global leadership of light source user facilities.

14 (2) LEADERSHIP STRATEGY.—Not later than 9
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and
16 biennially thereafter, the Director shall prepare, in
17 consultation with relevant stakeholders, and submit
18 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
19 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
20 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a
21 light source leadership strategy that—

22 (A) identifies, prioritizes, and describes
23 plans for the development, construction, and op-
24 eration of light sources over the next decade;

1 (B) describes plans for optimizing manage-
2 ment and use of existing light source facilities;
3 and

4 (C) assesses the international outlook for
5 light source user facilities and describes plans
6 for United States cooperation in such projects.

7 (3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK AND
8 RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 45 days after
9 submission of the strategy described in paragraph
10 (2), the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee
11 shall provide the Director, the Committee on
12 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
13 Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and
14 Natural Resources of the Senate a report of the Ad-
15 visory Committee’s analyses, findings, and rec-
16 ommendations for improving the strategy, including
17 a review of the most recent budget request for the
18 initiative.

19 (4) PROPOSED BUDGET.—The Director shall
20 transmit annually to Congress a proposed budget
21 corresponding to the activities identified in the strat-
22 egy.

23 (e) ACCELERATOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-
24 MENT.—The Director shall carry out research and devel-
25 opment on advanced accelerator and storage ring tech-

1 nologies relevant to the development of Basic Energy
 2 Sciences user facilities, in consultation with the Office of
 3 Science’s High Energy Physics and Nuclear Physics pro-
 4 grams.

5 **SEC. 503. ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING RESEARCH.**

6 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a re-
 7 search, development, and demonstration program to ad-
 8 vance computational and networking capabilities to ana-
 9 lyze, model, simulate, and predict complex phenomena rel-
 10 evant to the development of new energy technologies and
 11 the competitiveness of the United States.

12 (b) FACILITIES.—The Director, as part of the pro-
 13 gram described in subsection (a), shall develop and main-
 14 tain world-class computing and network facilities for
 15 science and deliver critical research in applied mathe-
 16 matics, computer science, and advanced networking to
 17 support the Department’s missions.

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Department of
 19 Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004
 20 (15 U.S.C. 5541) is amended by striking paragraphs (1)
 21 through (5) and inserting the following:

22 “(1) CO-DESIGN.—The term ‘co-design’ means
 23 the joint development of application algorithms,
 24 models, and codes with computer technology archi-

1 tectures and operating systems to maximize effective
2 use of high-end computing systems.

3 “(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Department’
4 means the Department of Energy.

5 “(3) EXASCALE.—The term ‘exascale’ means
6 computing system performance at or near 10 to the
7 18th power floating point operations per second.

8 “(4) HIGH-END COMPUTING SYSTEM.—The
9 term ‘high-end computing system’ means a com-
10 puting system with performance that substantially
11 exceeds that of systems that are commonly available
12 for advanced scientific and engineering applications.

13 “(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
14 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
15 meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy
16 Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

17 “(6) LEADERSHIP SYSTEM.—The term ‘leader-
18 ship system’ means a high-end computing system
19 that is among the most advanced in the world in
20 terms of performance in solving scientific and engi-
21 neering problems.

22 “(7) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ‘Na-
23 tional Laboratory’ means any one of the seventeen
24 laboratories owned by the Department.

1 “(8) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
2 the Secretary of Energy.

3 “(9) SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY.—The term
4 ‘software technology’ includes optimal algorithms,
5 programming environments, tools, languages, and
6 operating systems for high-end computing systems.”.

7 (d) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HIGH-END COM-
8 PUTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Sec-
9 tion 3 of the Department of Energy High-End Computing
10 Revitalization Act of 2004 (15 U.S.C. 5542) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “pro-
13 gram” and inserting “coordinated program
14 across the Department”;

15 (B) by striking “and” at the end of para-
16 graph (1);

17 (C) by striking the period at the end of
18 paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

19 (D) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(3) partner with universities, National Labora-
22 tories, and industry to ensure the broadest possible
23 application of the technology developed in this pro-
24 gram to other challenges in science, engineering,
25 medicine, and industry.”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “vector”
2 and all that follows through “architectures” and in-
3 serting “computer technologies that show promise of
4 substantial reductions in power requirements and
5 substantial gains in parallelism of multicore proc-
6 essors, concurrency, memory and storage, band-
7 width, and reliability”; and

8 (3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(d) EXASCALE COMPUTING PROGRAM.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
12 duct a coordinated research program to develop
13 exascale computing systems to advance the missions
14 of the Department.

15 “(2) EXECUTION.—The Secretary shall,
16 through competitive merit review, establish two or
17 more National Laboratory-industry-university part-
18 nerships to conduct integrated research, develop-
19 ment, and engineering of multiple exascale architec-
20 tures, and—

21 “(A) conduct mission-related co-design ac-
22 tivities in developing such exascale platforms;

23 “(B) develop those advancements in hard-
24 ware and software technology required to fully
25 realize the potential of an exascale production

1 system in addressing Department target appli-
2 cations and solving scientific problems involving
3 predictive modeling and simulation and large-
4 scale data analytics and management; and

5 “(C) explore the use of exascale computing
6 technologies to advance a broad range of
7 science and engineering.

8 “(3) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out this
9 program, the Secretary shall—

10 “(A) provide, on a competitive, merit-re-
11 viewed basis, access for researchers in United
12 States industry, institutions of higher edu-
13 cation, National Laboratories, and other Fed-
14 eral agencies to these exascale systems, as ap-
15 propriate; and

16 “(B) conduct outreach programs to in-
17 crease the readiness for the use of such plat-
18 forms by domestic industries, including manu-
19 facturers.

20 “(4) REPORTS.—

21 “(A) INTEGRATED STRATEGY AND PRO-
22 GRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary
23 shall submit to Congress, not later than 90
24 days after the date of enactment of the America
25 COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, a

1 report outlining an integrated strategy and pro-
2 gram management plan, including target dates
3 for prototypical and production exascale plat-
4 forms, interim milestones to reaching these tar-
5 gets, functional requirements, roles and respon-
6 sibilities of National Laboratories and industry,
7 acquisition strategy, and estimated resources
8 required, to achieve this exascale system capa-
9 bility. The report shall include the Secretary's
10 plan for Departmental organization to manage
11 and execute the Exascale Computing Program,
12 including definition of the roles and responsibil-
13 ities within the Department to ensure an inte-
14 grated program across the Department. The re-
15 port shall also include a plan for ensuring bal-
16 ance and prioritizing across ASCR subprograms
17 in a flat or slow-growth budget environment.

18 “(B) STATUS REPORTS.—At the time of
19 the budget submission of the Department for
20 each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit a
21 report to Congress that describes the status of
22 milestones and costs in achieving the objectives
23 of the exascale computing program.

24 “(C) EXASCALE MERIT REPORT.—At least
25 18 months prior to the initiation of construction

1 or installation of any exascale-class computing
2 facility, the Secretary shall transmit a plan to
3 the Congress detailing—

4 “(i) the proposed facility’s cost projec-
5 tions and capabilities to significantly accel-
6 erate the development of new energy tech-
7 nologies;

8 “(ii) technical risks and challenges
9 that must be overcome to achieve success-
10 ful completion and operation of the facility;
11 and

12 “(iii) an independent assessment of
13 the scientific and technological advances
14 expected from such a facility relative to
15 those expected from a comparable invest-
16 ment in expanded research and applica-
17 tions at terascale-class and petascale-class
18 computing facilities, including an evalua-
19 tion of where investments should be made
20 in the system software and algorithms to
21 enable these advances.”.

22 **SEC. 504. HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS.**

23 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a re-
24 search program on the fundamental constituents of matter
25 and energy and the nature of space and time.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
2 Congress that—

3 (1) the Director should incorporate the findings
4 and recommendations of the Particle Physics Project
5 Prioritization Panel’s report entitled “Building for
6 Discovery: Strategic Plan for U.S. Particle Physics
7 in the Global Context”, into the Department’s plan-
8 ning process as part of the program described in
9 subsection (a);

10 (2) the Director should prioritize domestically
11 hosted research projects that will maintain the
12 United States position as a global leader in particle
13 physics and attract the world’s most talented physi-
14 cists and foreign investment for international col-
15 laboration; and

16 (3) the nations that lead in particle physics by
17 hosting international teams dedicated to a common
18 scientific goal attract the world’s best talent and in-
19 spire future generations of physicists and tech-
20 nologists.

21 (c) NEUTRINO RESEARCH.—As part of the program
22 described in subsection (a), the Director shall carry out
23 research activities on rare decay processes and the nature
24 of the neutrino, which may include collaborations with the

1 National Science Foundation or international collabora-
2 tions.

3 (d) DARK ENERGY AND DARK MATTER RE-
4 SEARCH.—As part of the program described in subsection
5 (a), the Director shall carry out research activities on the
6 nature of dark energy and dark matter, which may include
7 collaborations with the National Aeronautics and Space
8 Administration or the National Science Foundation, or
9 international collaborations.

10 (e) ACCELERATOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-
11 MENT.—The Director shall carry out research and devel-
12 opment in advanced accelerator concepts and technologies,
13 including laser technologies, to reduce the necessary scope
14 and cost for the next generation of particle accelerators.
15 The Director shall ensure access to national laboratory ac-
16 celerator facilities, infrastructure, and technology for
17 users and developers of accelerators that advance applica-
18 tions in energy and the environment, medicine, industry,
19 national security, and discovery science.

20 (f) INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION.—The Direc-
21 tor, as practicable and in coordination with other appro-
22 priate Federal agencies as necessary, shall ensure the ac-
23 cess of United States researchers to the most advanced
24 accelerator facilities and research capabilities in the world,
25 including the Large Hadron Collider.

1 **SEC. 505. BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH.**

2 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a pro-
3 gram of research, development, and demonstration in the
4 areas of biological systems science and climate and envi-
5 ronmental science to support the energy and environ-
6 mental missions of the Department.

7 (b) PRIORITY RESEARCH.—In carrying out this sec-
8 tion, the Director shall prioritize fundamental research on
9 biological systems and genomics science with the greatest
10 potential to enable scientific discovery.

11 (c) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 12 months after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
13 shall submit a report to Congress identifying climate
14 science-related initiatives under this section that overlap
15 or duplicate initiatives of other Federal agencies and the
16 extent of such overlap or duplication.

17 (d) LIMITATION.—The Director shall not approve
18 new climate science-related initiatives to be carried out
19 through the Office of Science without making a determina-
20 tion that such work is unique and not duplicative of work
21 by other Federal agencies. Not later than 3 months after
22 receiving the assessment required under subsection (c),
23 the Director shall cease those climate science-related ini-
24 tiatives identified in the assessment as overlapping or du-
25 plicative, unless the Director justifies that such work is
26 critical to achieving American energy security.

1 (e) LOW DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Depart-
3 ment of Energy Office of Science shall carry out a
4 research program on low dose radiation. The pur-
5 pose of the program is to enhance the scientific un-
6 derstanding of and reduce uncertainties associated
7 with the effects of exposure to low dose radiation in
8 order to inform improved risk management methods.

9 (2) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall
11 enter into an agreement with the National Acad-
12 emies to conduct a study assessing the current sta-
13 tus and development of a long-term strategy for low
14 dose radiation research. Such study shall be com-
15 pleted not later than 18 months after the date of en-
16 actment of this Act. The study shall be conducted in
17 coordination with Federal agencies that perform ion-
18 izing radiation effects research and shall leverage
19 the most current studies in this field. Such study
20 shall—

21 (A) identify current scientific challenges
22 for understanding the long-term effects of ion-
23 izing radiation;

1 (B) assess the status of current low dose
2 radiation research in the United States and
3 internationally;

4 (C) formulate overall scientific goals for
5 the future of low-dose radiation research in the
6 United States;

7 (D) recommend a long-term strategic and
8 prioritized research agenda to address scientific
9 research goals for overcoming the identified sci-
10 entific challenges in coordination with other re-
11 search efforts;

12 (E) define the essential components of a
13 research program that would address this re-
14 search agenda within the universities and the
15 National Laboratories; and

16 (F) assess the cost-benefit effectiveness of
17 such a program.

18 (3) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 90 days
19 after the completion of the study performed under
20 paragraph (2) the Secretary of Energy shall deliver
21 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
22 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
23 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a
24 5-year research plan that responds to the study's

1 findings and recommendations and identifies and
2 prioritizes research needs.

3 (4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
4 “low dose radiation” means a radiation dose of less
5 than 100 millisieverts.

6 (5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
7 subsection shall be construed to subject any research
8 carried out by the Director under the research pro-
9 gram under this subsection to any limitations de-
10 scribed in section 977(e) of the Energy Policy Act
11 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

12 **SEC. 506. FUSION ENERGY.**

13 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a fusion
14 energy sciences research program to expand the funda-
15 mental understanding of plasmas and matter at very high
16 temperatures and densities and to build the scientific
17 foundation necessary to enable fusion power.

18 (b) FUSION MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-
19 MENT.—As part of the activities authorized in section 978
20 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16318)—

21 (1) the Director, in coordination with the As-
22 sistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy of the Depart-
23 ment, shall carry out research and development ac-
24 tivities to identify, characterize, and demonstrate

1 materials that can endure the neutron, plasma, and
2 heat fluxes expected in a fusion power system; and

3 (2) the Secretary shall—

4 (A) provide an assessment of the need for
5 a facility or facilities that can examine and test
6 potential fusion and next generation fission ma-
7 terials and other enabling technologies relevant
8 to the development of fusion power; and

9 (B) provide an assessment of whether a
10 single new facility that substantially addresses
11 magnetic fusion and next generation fission ma-
12 terials research needs is feasible, in conjunction
13 with the expected capabilities of facilities oper-
14 ational as of the date of enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 507. NUCLEAR PHYSICS.**

16 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a pro-
17 gram of experimental and theoretical research, and sup-
18 port associated facilities, to discover, explore, and under-
19 stand all forms of nuclear matter.

20 (b) ISOTOPE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION FOR
21 RESEARCH APPLICATIONS.—The Director shall carry out
22 a program for the production of isotopes, including the
23 development of techniques to produce isotopes, that the
24 Secretary determines are needed for research, medical, in-

1 dustrial, or other purposes. In making this determination,
2 the Secretary shall—

3 (1) ensure that, as has been the policy of the
4 United States since the publication in 1965 of Fed-
5 eral Register notice 30 Fed. Reg. 3247, isotope pro-
6 duction activities do not compete with private indus-
7 try unless critical national interests necessitate the
8 Federal Government’s involvement;

9 (2) ensure that activities undertaken pursuant
10 to this section, to the extent practicable, promote the
11 growth of a robust domestic isotope production in-
12 dustry; and

13 (3) consider any relevant recommendations
14 made by Federal advisory committees, the National
15 Academies, and interagency working groups in which
16 the Department participates.

17 **SEC. 508. SCIENCE LABORATORIES INFRASTRUCTURE PRO-**
18 **GRAM.**

19 (a) PROGRAM.—The Director shall carry out a pro-
20 gram to improve the safety, efficiency, and mission readi-
21 ness of infrastructure at Office of Science laboratories.
22 The program shall include projects to—

23 (1) renovate or replace space that does not
24 meet research needs;

1 (2) replace facilities that are no longer cost ef-
2 fective to renovate or operate;

3 (3) modernize utility systems to prevent failures
4 and ensure efficiency;

5 (4) remove excess facilities to allow safe and ef-
6 ficient operations; and

7 (5) construct modern facilities to conduct ad-
8 vanced research in controlled environmental condi-
9 tions.

10 (b) APPROACH.—In carrying out this section, the Di-
11 rector shall utilize all available approaches and mecha-
12 nisms, including capital line items, minor construction
13 projects, energy savings performance contracts, utility en-
14 ergy service contracts, alternative financing, and expense
15 funding, as appropriate.

16 **SEC. 509. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—There are authorized to be
18 appropriated to the Secretary for the Office of Science for
19 fiscal year 2016 \$5,339,800,000, of which—

20 (1) \$1,850,000,000 shall be for Basic Energy
21 Science;

22 (2) \$788,000,000 shall be for High Energy
23 Physics;

24 (3) \$550,000,000 shall be for Biological and
25 Environmental Research;

1 (4) \$624,700,000 shall be for Nuclear Physics;

2 (5) \$621,000,000 shall be for Advanced Sci-
3 entific Computing Research;

4 (6) \$488,000,000 shall be for Fusion Energy
5 Sciences;

6 (7) \$113,600,000 shall be for Science Labora-
7 tories Infrastructure;

8 (8) \$181,000,000 shall be for Science Program
9 Direction;

10 (9) \$103,000,000 shall be for Safeguards and
11 Security; and

12 (10) \$20,500,000 shall be for Workforce Devel-
13 opment for Teachers and Scientists.

14 (b) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—There are authorized to be
15 appropriated to the Secretary for the Office of Science for
16 fiscal year 2017 \$5,339,800,000, of which—

17 (1) \$1,850,000,000 shall be for Basic Energy
18 Science;

19 (2) \$788,000,000 shall be for High Energy
20 Physics;

21 (3) \$550,000,000 shall be for Biological and
22 Environmental Research;

23 (4) \$624,700,000 shall be for Nuclear Physics;

24 (5) \$621,000,000 shall be for Advanced Sci-
25 entific Computing Research;

1 (6) \$488,000,000 shall be for Fusion Energy
2 Sciences;

3 (7) \$113,600,000 shall be for Science Labora-
4 tories Infrastructure;

5 (8) \$181,000,000 shall be for Science Program
6 Direction;

7 (9) \$103,000,000 shall be for Safeguards and
8 Security; and

9 (10) \$20,500,000 shall be for Workforce Devel-
10 opment for Teachers and Scientists.

11 **SEC. 510. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this title—

13 (1) the term “Department” means the Depart-
14 ment of Energy;

15 (2) the term “Director” means the Director of
16 the Office of Science of the Department; and

17 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
18 of Energy.

1 **TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF EN-**
2 **ERGY APPLIED RESEARCH**
3 **AND DEVELOPMENT**

4 **Subtitle A—Crosscutting Research**
5 **and Development**

6 **SEC. 601. CROSSCUTTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

7 (a) CROSSCUTTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-
8 MENT.—The Secretary shall, through the Under Secretary
9 for Science and Energy, utilize the capabilities of the De-
10 partment to identify strategic opportunities for collabo-
11 rative research, development, demonstration, and commer-
12 cial application of innovative science and technologies
13 for—

14 (1) advancing the understanding of the energy-
15 water-land use nexus;

16 (2) improving energy transmission and distribu-
17 tion systems security and resiliency;

18 (3) utilizing supercritical carbon dioxide in elec-
19 tric power generation;

20 (4) subsurface technology and engineering;

21 (5) exascale computing;

22 (6) cybersecurity; and

23 (7) critical challenges identified through com-
24 prehensive energy studies, evaluations, and reviews.

1 (b) CROSSCUTTING APPROACHES.—To the maximum
2 extent practicable, the Secretary shall seek to leverage ex-
3 isting programs, and consolidate and coordinate activities,
4 throughout the Department to promote collaboration and
5 crosscutting approaches within programs.

6 (c) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS.—The Secretary shall—

7 (1) prioritize activities that promote the utiliza-
8 tion of all affordable domestic resources;

9 (2) develop a rigorous and realistic planning,
10 evaluation, and technical assessment framework for
11 setting objective, long-term strategic goals and eval-
12 uating progress that ensures the integrity and inde-
13 pendence to insulate planning from political influ-
14 ence and the flexibility to adapt to market dynamics;

15 (3) ensure that activities shall be undertaken in
16 a manner that does not duplicate other activities
17 within the Department or other Federal Government
18 activities; and

19 (4) identify programs that may be more effec-
20 tively left to the States, industry, nongovernmental
21 organizations, institutions of higher education, or
22 other stakeholders.

1 **SEC. 602. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS**
2 **AND COORDINATION PLAN.**

3 Section 994 of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
4 16358) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 994. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS**
6 **AND COORDINATION PLAN.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall periodically
8 review all of the science and technology activities of the
9 Department in a strategic framework that takes into ac-
10 count the frontiers of science to which the Department
11 can contribute, the national needs relevant to the Depart-
12 ment’s statutory missions, and global energy dynamics.

13 “(b) COORDINATION ANALYSIS AND PLAN.—As part
14 of the review under subsection (a), the Secretary shall de-
15 velop a plan to improve coordination and collaboration in
16 research, development, demonstration, and commercial ap-
17 plication activities across Department organizational
18 boundaries.

19 “(c) PLAN CONTENTS.—The plan shall describe—

20 “(1) cross-cutting scientific and technical issues
21 and research questions that span more than one pro-
22 gram or major office of the Department;

23 “(2) how the applied technology programs of
24 the Department are coordinating their activities, and
25 addressing those questions;

1 “(3) ways in which the technical interchange
2 within the Department, particularly between the Of-
3 fice of Science and the applied technology programs,
4 can be enhanced, including ways in which the re-
5 search agendas of the Office of Science and the ap-
6 plied programs can interact and assist each other;

7 “(4) a description of how the Secretary will en-
8 sure that the Department’s overall research agenda
9 include, in addition to fundamental, curiosity-driven
10 research, fundamental research related to topics of
11 concern to the applied programs, and applications in
12 Departmental technology programs of research re-
13 sults generated by fundamental, curiosity-driven re-
14 search;

15 “(5) critical assessments of any ongoing pro-
16 grams that have experienced sub-par performance or
17 cost over-runs of 10 percent or more over one or
18 more years; and

19 “(6) activities that may be more effectively left
20 to the States, industry, nongovernmental organiza-
21 tions, institutions of higher education, or other
22 stakeholders.

23 “(d) PLAN TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year
24 after the date of enactment of the America COMPETES
25 Reauthorization Act of 2015, and every 4 years thereafter,

1 the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Science,
 2 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
 3 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
 4 the Senate the results of the review under subsection (a)
 5 and the coordination plan under subsection (b).”.

6 **SEC. 603. STRATEGY FOR FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUC-**
 7 **TURE.**

8 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 993 of the Energy Pol-
 9 icy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16357) is amended—

10 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
 11 follows: “**STRATEGY FOR FACILITIES AND IN-**
 12 **FRASTRUCTURE**”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “2008”
 14 and inserting “2018”.

15 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The item
 16 relating to section 993 in the table of contents of the En-
 17 ergy Policy Act of 2005 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 993. Strategy for facilities and infrastructure.”.

18 **Subtitle B—Electricity Delivery**
 19 **and Energy Reliability Research**
 20 **and Development**

21 **SEC. 611. DISTRIBUTED ENERGY AND ELECTRIC ENERGY**
 22 **SYSTEMS.**

23 Section 921 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
 24 U.S.C. 16211) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 921. DISTRIBUTED ENERGY AND ELECTRIC ENERGY**
2 **SYSTEMS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out
4 programs of research, development, demonstration, and
5 commercial application on distributed energy resources
6 and systems reliability and efficiency, to improve the reli-
7 ability and efficiency of distributed energy resources and
8 systems, integrating advanced energy technologies with
9 grid connectivity, including activities described in this sub-
10 title. The programs shall address advanced energy tech-
11 nologies and systems and advanced grid security, resil-
12 iency, and reliability technologies.

13 “(b) OBJECTIVES.—To the maximum extent prac-
14 ticable, the Secretary shall seek to—

15 “(1) leverage existing programs;

16 “(2) consolidate and coordinate activities
17 throughout the Department to promote collaboration
18 and crosscutting approaches;

19 “(3) ensure activities are undertaken in a man-
20 ner that does not duplicate other activities within
21 the Department or other Federal Government activi-
22 ties; and

23 “(4) identify programs that may be more effec-
24 tively left to the States, industry, nongovernmental
25 organizations, institutions of higher education, or
26 other stakeholders.”.

1 **SEC. 612. ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION RE-**
2 **SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

3 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 925 of the Energy Pol-
4 icy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16215) is amended—

5 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
6 follows: “**ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DIS-**
7 **TRIBUTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**”;

8 (2) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a
11 comprehensive research, development, and demonstration
12 program to ensure the reliability, efficiency, and environ-
13 mental integrity of electrical transmission and distribution
14 systems, which shall include innovations for—

15 “(1) advanced energy delivery technologies, en-
16 ergy storage technologies, materials, and systems;

17 “(2) advanced grid reliability and efficiency
18 technology development;

19 “(3) technologies contributing to significant
20 load reductions;

21 “(4) advanced metering, load management, and
22 control technologies;

23 “(5) technologies to enhance existing grid com-
24 ponents;

25 “(6) the development and use of high-tempera-
26 ture superconductors to—

1 “(A) enhance the reliability, operational
2 flexibility, or power-carrying capability of elec-
3 tric transmission or distribution systems; or

4 “(B) increase the efficiency of electric en-
5 ergy generation, transmission, distribution, or
6 storage systems;

7 “(7) integration of power systems, including
8 systems to deliver high-quality electric power, elec-
9 tric power reliability, and combined heat and power;

10 “(8) supply of electricity to the power grid by
11 small scale, distributed, and residential-based power
12 generators;

13 “(9) the development and use of advanced grid
14 design, operation, and planning tools; and

15 “(10) any other infrastructure technologies, as
16 appropriate.”; and

17 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

20 “(1) CONSORTIUM.—The Secretary shall con-
21 sider implementing the program under this section
22 using a consortium of participants from industry, in-
23 stitutions of higher education, and National Labora-
24 tories.

1 “(2) OBJECTIVES.—To the maximum extent
2 practicable the Secretary shall seek to—

3 “(A) leverage existing programs;

4 “(B) consolidate and coordinate activities,
5 throughout the Department to promote collabo-
6 ration and crosscutting approaches;

7 “(C) ensure activities are undertaken in a
8 manner that does not duplicate other activities
9 within the Department or other Federal Gov-
10 ernment activities; and

11 “(D) identify programs that may be more
12 effectively left to the States, industry, non-
13 governmental organizations, institutions of
14 higher education, or other stakeholders.”.

15 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The item
16 relating to section 925 in the table of contents of the En-
17 ergy Policy Act of 2005 is amended to read as follows:

 “Sec. 925. Electric transmission and distribution research and development.”.

18 **Subtitle C—Nuclear Energy** 19 **Research and Development**

20 **SEC. 621. OBJECTIVES.**

21 Section 951 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
22 U.S.C. 16271) is amended—

23 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct pro-
2 grams of civilian nuclear energy research, development,
3 demonstration, and commercial application, including ac-
4 tivities described in this subtitle. Such programs shall take
5 into consideration the following objectives:

6 “(1) Enhancing nuclear power’s viability as
7 part of the United States energy portfolio.

8 “(2) Reducing used nuclear fuel and nuclear
9 waste products generated by civilian nuclear energy.

10 “(3) Supporting technological advances in areas
11 that industry by itself is not likely to undertake be-
12 cause of technical and financial uncertainty.

13 “(4) Providing the technical means to reduce
14 the likelihood of nuclear proliferation.

15 “(5) Maintaining a cadre of nuclear scientists
16 and engineers.

17 “(6) Maintaining National Laboratory and uni-
18 versity nuclear programs, including their infrastruc-
19 ture.

20 “(7) Supporting both individual researchers and
21 multidisciplinary teams of researchers to pioneer
22 new approaches in nuclear energy, science, and tech-
23 nology.

1 “(8) Developing, planning, constructing, acquir-
2 ing, and operating special equipment and facilities
3 for the use of researchers.

4 “(9) Supporting technology transfer and other
5 appropriate activities to assist the nuclear energy in-
6 dustry, and other users of nuclear science and engi-
7 neering, including activities addressing reliability,
8 availability, productivity, component aging, safety,
9 and security of nuclear power plants.

10 “(10) Reducing the environmental impact of
11 nuclear energy-related activities.

12 “(11) Researching and developing technologies
13 and processes to meet Federal and State require-
14 ments and standards for nuclear power systems.”;

15 (2) by striking subsections (b) through (d); and

16 (3) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
17 section (b).

18 **SEC. 622. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES STUDY.**

19 Section 951 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
20 U.S.C. 16271) is further amended by adding at the end
21 the following new subsection:

22 “(c) PROGRAM OBJECTIVES STUDY.—In furtherance
23 of the program objectives listed in subsection (a) of this
24 section, the Government Accountability Office shall, within
25 one year after the date of enactment of this subsection,

1 transmit to the Congress a report on the results of a study
 2 on the scientific and technical merit of major Federal and
 3 State requirements and standards, including moratoria,
 4 that delay or impede the further development and com-
 5 mercialization of nuclear power, and how the Department
 6 can assist in overcoming such delays or impediments.”.

7 **SEC. 623. NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**
 8 **MENT PROGRAMS.**

9 Section 952 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
 10 U.S.C. 16272) is amended by striking subsections (c)
 11 through (e) and inserting the following:

12 “(c) REACTOR CONCEPTS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
 14 out a program of research, development, demonstra-
 15 tion, and commercial application to advance nuclear
 16 power systems as well as technologies to sustain cur-
 17 rently deployed systems.

18 “(2) DESIGNS AND TECHNOLOGIES.—In con-
 19 ducting the program under this subsection, the Sec-
 20 retary shall examine advanced reactor designs and
 21 nuclear technologies, including those that—

22 “(A) have higher efficiency, lower cost, and
 23 improved safety compared to reactors in oper-
 24 ation as of the date of enactment of the Amer-
 25 ica COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015;

1 “(B) utilize passive safety features;

2 “(C) minimize proliferation risks;

3 “(D) substantially reduce production of
4 high-level waste per unit of output;

5 “(E) increase the life and sustainability of
6 reactor systems currently deployed;

7 “(F) use improved instrumentation;

8 “(G) are capable of producing large-scale
9 quantities of hydrogen or process heat;

10 “(H) minimize water usage or use alter-
11 natives to water as a cooling mechanism; or

12 “(I) use nuclear energy as part of an inte-
13 grated energy system.

14 “(3) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—In car-
15 rying out the program under this subsection, the
16 Secretary shall seek opportunities to enhance the
17 progress of the program through international co-
18 operation through such organizations as the Genera-
19 tion IV International Forum or any other inter-
20 national collaboration the Secretary considers appro-
21 priate.

22 “(4) EXCEPTIONS.—No funds authorized to be
23 appropriated to carry out the activities described in
24 this subsection shall be used to fund the activities
25 authorized under sections 641 through 645.”.

1 **SEC. 624. SMALL MODULAR REACTOR PROGRAM.**

2 Section 952 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
3 U.S.C. 16272) is further amended by adding at the end
4 the following new subsection:

5 “(d) SMALL MODULAR REACTOR PROGRAM.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
7 out a small modular reactor program to promote re-
8 search, development, demonstration, and commercial
9 application of small modular reactors, including
10 through cost-shared projects for commercial applica-
11 tion of reactor systems designs.

12 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
13 sult with and utilize the expertise of the Secretary
14 of the Navy in establishing and carrying out such
15 program.

16 “(3) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Activities may
17 also include development of advanced computer mod-
18 eling and simulation tools, by Federal and non-Fed-
19 eral entities, which demonstrate and validate new de-
20 sign capabilities of innovative small modular reactor
21 designs.

22 “(4) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this
23 subsection, the term ‘small modular reactor’ means
24 a nuclear reactor meeting generally accepted indus-
25 try standards—

1 “(A) with a rated capacity of less than 300
2 electrical megawatts;

3 “(B) with respect to which most parts can
4 be factory assembled and shipped as modules to
5 a reactor plant site for assembly; and

6 “(C) that can be constructed and operated
7 in combination with similar reactors at a single
8 site.”.

9 **SEC. 625. FUEL CYCLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

10 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 953 of the Energy Pol-
11 icy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16273) is amended—

12 (1) in the section heading by striking “**AD-**
13 **VANCED FUEL CYCLE INITIATIVE**” and inserting
14 “**FUEL CYCLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (a);

16 (3) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d)
17 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

18 (4) by inserting before subsection (d), as so re-
19 designated by paragraph (3) of this subsection, the
20 following new subsections:

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
22 fuel cycle research, development, demonstration, and com-
23 mercial application program (referred to in this section as
24 the ‘program’) on fuel cycle options that improve uranium
25 resource utilization, maximize energy generation, minimize

1 nuclear waste creation, improve safety, mitigate risk of
2 proliferation, and improve waste management in support
3 of a national strategy for spent nuclear fuel and the reac-
4 tor concepts research, development, demonstration, and
5 commercial application program under section 952(c).

6 “(b) FUEL CYCLE OPTIONS.—Under this section the
7 Secretary may consider implementing the following initia-
8 tives:

9 “(1) OPEN CYCLE.—Developing fuels, including
10 the use of nonuranium materials and alternate
11 claddings, for use in reactors that increase energy
12 generation, improve safety performance and mar-
13 gins, and minimize the amount of nuclear waste pro-
14 duced in an open fuel cycle.

15 “(2) RECYCLE.—Developing advanced recycling
16 technologies, including advanced reactor concepts to
17 improve resource utilization, reduce proliferation
18 risks, and minimize radiotoxicity, decay heat, and
19 mass and volume of nuclear waste to the greatest
20 extent possible.

21 “(3) ADVANCED STORAGE METHODS.—Devel-
22 oping advanced storage technologies for both onsite
23 and long-term storage that substantially prolong the
24 effective life of current storage devices or that sub-

1 stantially improve upon existing nuclear waste stor-
2 age technologies and methods, including repositories.

3 “(4) FAST TEST REACTOR.—Investigating the
4 potential research benefits of a fast test reactor user
5 facility to conduct experiments on fuels and mate-
6 rials related to fuel forms and fuel cycles that will
7 increase fuel utilization, reduce proliferation risks,
8 and reduce nuclear waste products.

9 “(5) OTHER TECHNOLOGIES.—Developing any
10 other technology or initiative that the Secretary de-
11 termines is likely to advance the objectives of the
12 program.

13 “(c) ADDITIONAL ADVANCED RECYCLING AND
14 CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES.—In addition to and in sup-
15 port of the specific initiatives described in paragraphs (1)
16 through (5) of subsection (b), the Secretary may support
17 the following activities:

18 “(1) Development and testing of integrated
19 process flow sheets for advanced nuclear fuel recy-
20 cling processes.

21 “(2) Research to characterize the byproducts
22 and waste streams resulting from fuel recycling
23 processes.

24 “(3) Research and development on reactor con-
25 cepts or transmutation technologies that improve re-

1 source utilization or reduce the radiotoxicity of waste
2 streams.

3 “(4) Research and development on waste treat-
4 ment processes and separations technologies, ad-
5 vanced waste forms, and quantification of prolifera-
6 tion risks.

7 “(5) Identification and evaluation of test and
8 experimental facilities necessary to successfully im-
9 plement the advanced fuel cycle initiative.

10 “(6) Advancement of fuel cycle-related modeling
11 and simulation capabilities.

12 “(7) Research to understand the behavior of
13 high-burnup fuels.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating
15 to section 953 in the table of contents of the Energy Policy
16 Act of 2005 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 953. Fuel cycle research and development.”.

17 **SEC. 626. NUCLEAR ENERGY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES**
18 **PROGRAM.**

19 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle E of title IX of the En-
20 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271 et seq.) is
21 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

22 **“SEC. 958. NUCLEAR ENERGY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
24 program to support the integration of activities under-
25 taken through the reactor concepts research, development,

1 demonstration, and commercial application program under
2 section 952(c) and the fuel cycle research and development
3 program under section 953, and support crosscutting nu-
4 clear energy concepts. Activities commenced under this
5 section shall be concentrated on broadly applicable re-
6 search and development focus areas.

7 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities conducted under this
8 section may include research involving—

9 “(1) advanced reactor materials;

10 “(2) advanced radiation mitigation methods;

11 “(3) advanced proliferation and security risk
12 assessment methods;

13 “(4) advanced sensors and instrumentation;

14 “(5) high performance computation modeling,
15 including multiphysics, multidimensional modeling
16 simulation for nuclear energy systems, and contin-
17 ued development of advanced modeling simulation
18 capabilities through national laboratory, industry,
19 and university partnerships for operations and safety
20 performance improvements of light water reactors
21 for currently deployed and near-term reactors and
22 for the development of small modular reactors; and
23 “(6) any crosscutting technology or trans-
24 formative concept aimed at establishing substantial
25 and revolutionary enhancements in the performance

1 of future nuclear energy systems that the Secretary
 2 considers relevant and appropriate to the purpose of
 3 this section.

4 “(c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit, as part
 5 of the annual budget submission of the Department, a re-
 6 port on the activities of the program conducted under this
 7 section, which shall include a brief evaluation of each ac-
 8 tivity’s progress.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 10 tents of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended by
 11 adding at the end of the items for subtitle E of title IX
 12 the following new item:

“Sec. 958. Nuclear energy enabling technologies.”.

13 **SEC. 627. TECHNICAL STANDARDS COLLABORATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-
 15 stitute of Standards and Technology shall establish a nu-
 16 clear energy standards committee (in this section referred
 17 to as the “technical standards committee”) to facilitate
 18 and support, consistent with the National Technology
 19 Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, the development
 20 or revision of technical standards for new and existing nu-
 21 clear power plants and advanced nuclear technologies.

22 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The technical standards
 24 committee shall include representatives from appro-
 25 priate Federal agencies and the private sector, and

1 be open to materially affected organizations involved
2 in the development or application of nuclear energy-
3 related standards.

4 (2) CO-CHAIRS.—The technical standards com-
5 mittee shall be co-chaired by a representative from
6 the National Institute of Standards and Technology
7 and a representative from a private sector standards
8 organization.

9 (c) DUTIES.—The technical standards committee
10 shall, in cooperation with appropriate Federal agencies—

11 (1) perform a needs assessment to identify and
12 evaluate the technical standards that are needed to
13 support nuclear energy, including those needed to
14 support new and existing nuclear power plants and
15 advanced nuclear technologies;

16 (2) formulate, coordinate, and recommend pri-
17 orities for the development of new technical stand-
18 ards and the revision of existing technical standards
19 to address the needs identified under paragraph (1);

20 (3) facilitate and support collaboration and co-
21 operation among standards developers to address the
22 needs and priorities identified under paragraphs (1)
23 and (2);

24 (4) as appropriate, coordinate with other na-
25 tional, regional, or international efforts on nuclear

1 energy-related technical standards in order to avoid
2 conflict and duplication and to ensure global com-
3 patibility; and

4 (5) promote the establishment and maintenance
5 of a database of nuclear energy-related technical
6 standards.

7 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To the
8 extent provided for in advance by appropriations Acts, the
9 Secretary may transfer to the Director of the National In-
10 stitute of Standards and Technology not to exceed
11 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 for the Secretary of Com-
12 merce to carry out this section from amounts appropriated
13 for nuclear energy research and development within the
14 Nuclear Energy Enabling Technologies account for the
15 Department.

16 **SEC. 628. AVAILABLE FACILITIES DATABASE.**

17 The Secretary shall prepare a database of non-Fed-
18 eral user facilities receiving Federal funds that may be
19 used for unclassified nuclear energy research. The Sec-
20 retary shall make this database accessible on the Depart-
21 ment's website.

22 **SEC. 629. NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL.**

23 To the extent consistent with the requirements of
24 current law, the Department shall be responsible for dis-
25 posal of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel

1 generated by reactors under the programs authorized in
2 this subtitle, or the amendments made by this subtitle.

3 **Subtitle D—Energy Efficiency and**
4 **Renewable Energy Research**
5 **and Development**

6 **SEC. 641. ENERGY EFFICIENCY.**

7 Section 911 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
8 U.S.C. 16191) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 911. ENERGY EFFICIENCY.**

10 “(a) **OBJECTIVES.**—The Secretary shall conduct pro-
11 grams of energy efficiency research, development, dem-
12 onstration, and commercial application, including activi-
13 ties described in this subtitle. Such programs shall
14 prioritize activities that industry by itself is not likely to
15 undertake because of technical challenges or regulatory
16 uncertainty, and take into consideration the following ob-
17 jectives:

18 “(1) Increasing energy efficiency.

19 “(2) Reducing the cost of energy.

20 “(3) Reducing the environmental impact of en-
21 ergy-related activities.

22 “(b) **PROGRAMS.**—Programs under this subtitle shall
23 include research, development, demonstration, and com-
24 mercial application of—

1 “(1) innovative, affordable technologies to im-
2 prove the energy efficiency and environmental per-
3 formance of vehicles, including weight and drag re-
4 duction technologies, and whole-vehicle design opti-
5 mization;

6 “(2) cost-effective technologies, for new con-
7 struction and retrofit, to improve the energy effi-
8 ciency and environmental performance of buildings,
9 using a whole-buildings approach;

10 “(3) advanced technologies to improve the en-
11 ergy efficiency, environmental performance, and
12 process efficiency of energy-intensive and waste-in-
13 tensive industries; and

14 “(4) technologies to improve the energy effi-
15 ciency of appliances and mechanical systems for
16 buildings in extreme climates, including cogenera-
17 tion, trigeneration, and polygeneration units.”.

18 **SEC. 642. NEXT GENERATION LIGHTING INITIATIVE.**

19 Section 912 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
20 U.S.C. 16192) is repealed.

21 **SEC. 643. BUILDING STANDARDS.**

22 Section 914 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
23 U.S.C. 16194) is amended by striking subsection (c).

1 **SEC. 644. SECONDARY ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERY USE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 915 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
4 U.S.C. 16195) is repealed.

5 **SEC. 645. NETWORK FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 To the extent provided for in advance by appropria-
8 tions Acts, the Secretary may transfer to the National In-
9 stitute of Standards and Technology up to \$150,000,000
10 for the period encompassing fiscal years 2015 through
11 2017 from amounts appropriated for advanced manufac-
12 turing research and development under this subtitle (and
13 the amendments made by this subtitle) for the Secretary
14 of Commerce to carry out the Network for Manufacturing
15 Innovation Program authorized under section 34 of the
16 National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15
17 U.S.C. 278s).

18 **SEC. 646. ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**
19 **CENTERS.**

20 Section 917 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
21 U.S.C. 16197) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) by inserting “and” at the end of para-
24 graph (2)(B);

25 (B) by striking “; and” at the end of para-
26 graph (3) and inserting a period; and

1 (C) by striking paragraph (4);

2 (2) in subsection (b)—

3 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

4 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
5 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-
6 spectively; and

7 (C) by striking paragraph (6);

8 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(g) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds awarded
11 under this section may be used for the construction of fa-
12 cilities or the deployment of commercially available tech-
13 nologies.”; and

14 (4) by striking subsection (i).

15 **SEC. 647. RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

16 Section 931 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
17 U.S.C. 16231) is amended to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 931. RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

20 “(1) OBJECTIVES.—The Secretary shall con-
21 duct programs of renewable energy research, devel-
22 opment, demonstration, and commercial application,
23 including activities described in this subtitle. Such
24 programs shall prioritize discovery research and de-

1 velopment and take into consideration the following
2 objectives:

3 “(A) Increasing the conversion efficiency of
4 all forms of renewable energy through improved
5 technologies.

6 “(B) Decreasing the cost of renewable en-
7 ergy generation and delivery.

8 “(C) Promoting the diversity of the energy
9 supply.

10 “(D) Decreasing the dependence of the
11 United States on foreign mineral resources.

12 “(E) Decreasing the environmental impact
13 of renewable energy-related activities.

14 “(F) Increasing the export of renewable
15 generation technologies from the United States.

16 “(2) PROGRAMS.—

17 “(A) SOLAR ENERGY.—The Secretary shall
18 conduct a program of research, development,
19 demonstration, and commercial application for
20 solar energy, including innovations in—

21 “(i) photovoltaics;

22 “(ii) solar heating;

23 “(iii) concentrating solar power;

1 “(iv) lighting systems that integrate
2 sunlight and electrical lighting in com-
3 plement to each other; and

4 “(v) development of technologies that
5 can be easily integrated into new and exist-
6 ing buildings.

7 “(B) WIND ENERGY.—The Secretary shall
8 conduct a program of research, development,
9 demonstration, and commercial application for
10 wind energy, including innovations in—

11 “(i) low speed wind energy;

12 “(ii) testing and verification tech-
13 nologies;

14 “(iii) distributed wind energy genera-
15 tion; and

16 “(iv) transformational technologies for
17 harnessing wind energy.

18 “(C) GEOTHERMAL.—The Secretary shall
19 conduct a program of research, development,
20 demonstration, and commercial application for
21 geothermal energy, including technologies for—

22 “(i) improving detection of geothermal
23 resources;

24 “(ii) decreasing drilling costs;

1 “(iii) decreasing maintenance costs
2 through improved materials;

3 “(iv) increasing the potential for other
4 revenue sources, such as mineral produc-
5 tion; and

6 “(v) increasing the understanding of
7 reservoir life cycle and management.

8 “(D) HYDROPOWER.—The Secretary shall
9 conduct a program of research, development,
10 demonstration, and commercial application for
11 technologies that enable the development of new
12 and incremental hydropower capacity, including:

13 “(i) Advanced technologies to enhance
14 environmental performance and yield
15 greater energy efficiencies.

16 “(ii) Ocean energy, including wave en-
17 ergy.

18 “(E) MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS.—The
19 Secretary shall conduct research, development,
20 demonstration, and commercial application pro-
21 grams for—

22 “(i) the combined use of renewable
23 energy technologies with one another and
24 with other energy technologies, including

1 the combined use of renewable power and
2 fossil technologies;

3 “(ii) renewable energy technologies for
4 cogeneration of hydrogen and electricity;
5 and

6 “(iii) kinetic hydro turbines.

7 “(b) RURAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In car-
8 rying out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with
9 the Secretary of Agriculture, shall give priority to dem-
10 onstrations that assist in delivering electricity to rural and
11 remote locations including—

12 “(1) advanced renewable power technology, in-
13 cluding combined use with fossil technologies;

14 “(2) biomass; and

15 “(3) geothermal energy systems.

16 “(c) ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
18 duct analysis and evaluation in support of the re-
19 newable energy programs under this subtitle. These
20 activities shall be used to guide budget and program
21 decisions, and shall include—

22 “(A) economic and technical analysis of re-
23 newable energy potential, including resource as-
24 sessment;

1 “(B) analysis of past program perform-
2 ance, both in terms of technical advances and
3 in market introduction of renewable energy;

4 “(C) assessment of domestic and inter-
5 national market drivers, including the impacts
6 of any Federal, State, or local grants, loans,
7 loan guarantees, tax incentives, statutory or
8 regulatory requirements, or other government
9 initiatives; and

10 “(D) any other analysis or evaluation that
11 the Secretary considers appropriate.

12 “(2) FUNDING.—The Secretary may designate
13 up to 1 percent of the funds appropriated for car-
14 rying out this subtitle for analysis and evaluation ac-
15 tivities under this subsection.

16 “(3) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—This analysis
17 and evaluation shall be submitted to the Committee
18 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
19 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
20 Natural Resources of the Senate at least 30 days be-
21 fore each annual budget request is submitted to
22 Congress.”.

23 **SEC. 648. BIOENERGY PROGRAM.**

24 Section 932 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
25 U.S.C. 16232) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 932. BIOENERGY PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall conduct a pro-
3 gram of research, development, demonstration, and com-
4 mercial application for bioenergy, including innovations
5 in—

6 “(1) biopower energy systems;

7 “(2) biofuels;

8 “(3) bioproducts;

9 “(4) integrated biorefineries that may produce
10 biopower, biofuels, and bioproducts; and

11 “(5) cross-cutting research and development in
12 feedstocks.

13 “(b) BIOFUELS AND BIOPRODUCTS.—The goals of
14 the biofuels and bioproducts programs shall be to develop,
15 in partnership with industry and institutions of higher
16 education—

17 “(1) advanced biochemical and thermochemical
18 conversion technologies capable of making fuels from
19 lignocellulosic feedstocks that are price-competitive
20 with fossil-based fuels and fully compatible with ei-
21 ther internal combustion engines or fuel cell-powered
22 vehicles;

23 “(2) advanced biotechnology processes capable
24 of making biofuels and bioproducts with emphasis on
25 development of biorefinery technologies using en-
26 zyme-based processing systems; and

1 “(3) other advanced processes that will enable
2 the development of cost-effective bioproducts, includ-
3 ing biofuels.

4 “(c) RETROFIT TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE DEVELOP-
5 MENT OF ETHANOL FROM CELLULOSIC MATERIALS.—
6 The Secretary shall establish a program of research, devel-
7 opment, demonstration, and commercial application for
8 technologies and processes to enable biorefineries that ex-
9 clusively use corn grain or corn starch as a feedstock to
10 produce ethanol to be retrofitted to accept a range of bio-
11 mass, including lignocellulosic feedstocks.

12 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—None of the funds authorized
13 for carrying out this section may be used to fund commer-
14 cial biofuels production for defense purposes in collabora-
15 tion with the Department of Defense and the Department
16 of Agriculture.

17 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) BIOMASS.—The term ‘biomass’ means—

19 “(A) any organic material grown for the
20 purpose of being converted to energy;

21 “(B) any organic byproduct of agriculture
22 (including wastes from food production and
23 processing) that can be converted into energy;
24 or

1 “(C) any waste material that can be con-
2 verted to energy, is segregated from other waste
3 materials, and is derived from—

4 “(i) any of the following forest-related
5 resources: mill residues, precommercial
6 thinnings, slash, brush, or otherwise non-
7 merchantable material;

8 “(ii) wood waste materials, including
9 waste pallets, crates, dunnage, manufac-
10 turing and construction wood wastes (other
11 than pressure-treated, chemically treated,
12 or painted wood wastes), and landscape or
13 right-of-way tree trimmings, but not in-
14 cluding municipal solid waste, gas derived
15 from the biodegradation of municipal solid
16 waste, or paper that is commonly recycled;
17 or

18 “(iii) solids derived from waste water
19 treatment processes.

20 “(2) LIGNOCELLULOSIC FEEDSTOCK.—The
21 term ‘lignocellulosic feedstock’ means any portion of
22 a plant or coproduct from conversion, including
23 crops, trees, forest residues, and agricultural resi-
24 dues not specifically grown for food, including from

1 barley grain, grapeseed, rice bran, rice hulls, rice
2 straw, soybean matter, and sugarcane bagasse.”.

3 **SEC. 649. CONCENTRATING SOLAR POWER RESEARCH PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 Section 934 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
6 U.S.C. 16234) is repealed.

7 **SEC. 650. RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.**

8 Section 935 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
9 U.S.C. 16235) and the item relating thereto in the table
10 of contents of that Act are repealed.

11 **Subtitle E—Fossil Energy Research**
12 **and Development**

13 **SEC. 661. FOSSIL ENERGY.**

14 Section 961 of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
15 16291) is amended to read as follows:

16 **“SEC. 961. FOSSIL ENERGY.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out re-
18 search, development, demonstration, and commercial ap-
19 plication programs in fossil energy, including activities
20 under this subtitle, with the goal of improving the effi-
21 ciency, effectiveness, and environmental performance of
22 fossil energy production, upgrading, conversion, and con-
23 sumption. Such programs shall take into consideration the
24 following objectives:

1 “(1) Increasing the energy conversion efficiency
2 of all forms of fossil energy through improved tech-
3 nologies.

4 “(2) Decreasing the cost of all fossil energy
5 production, generation, and delivery.

6 “(3) Promoting diversity of energy supply.

7 “(4) Decreasing the dependence of the United
8 States on foreign energy supplies.

9 “(5) Decreasing the environmental impact of
10 energy-related activities.

11 “(6) Increasing the export of fossil energy-re-
12 lated equipment, technology, and services from the
13 United States.

14 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

15 “(1) USES.—None of the funds authorized for
16 carrying out this section may be used for Fossil En-
17 ergy Environmental Restoration.

18 “(2) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
19 Not less than 20 percent of the funds appropriated
20 for carrying out section 964 of this Act for each fis-
21 cal year shall be dedicated to research and develop-
22 ment carried out at institutions of higher education.

23 “(3) USE FOR REGULATORY ASSESSMENTS OR
24 DETERMINATIONS.—The results of any research, de-
25 velopment, demonstration, or commercial application

1 projects or activities of the Department may not be
2 used for regulatory assessments or determinations
3 by Federal regulatory authorities.

4 “(c) ASSESSMENTS.—

5 “(1) CONSTRAINTS AGAINST BRINGING RE-
6 SOURCES TO MARKET.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date of enactment of the America COMPETES
8 Reauthorization Act of 2015, the Secretary shall
9 transmit to Congress an assessment of the technical,
10 institutional, policy, and regulatory constraints to
11 bringing new domestic fossil resources to market.

12 “(2) TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES.—Not later
13 than 2 years after the date of enactment of the
14 America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015,
15 the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a long-term
16 assessment of existing and projected technological
17 capabilities for expanded production from domestic
18 unconventional oil, gas, and methane reserves.”.

19 **SEC. 662. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION,**
20 **AND COMMERCIAL APPLICATION PROGRAMS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 962 of the Energy Policy
22 Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16292) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”
25 at the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-
2 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(12) specific additional programs to address
5 water use and reuse;

6 “(13) the testing, including the construction of
7 testing facilities, of high temperature materials for
8 use in advanced systems for combustion or use of
9 coal; and

10 “(14) innovations to application of existing coal
11 conversion systems designed to increase efficiency of
12 conversion, flexibility of operation, and other modi-
13 fications to address existing usage requirements.”;

14 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d)
15 as subsections (c) through (e), respectively;

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(b) TRANSFORMATIONAL COAL TECHNOLOGY PRO-
19 GRAM.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-
21 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretary may
22 carry out a program designed to undertake research,
23 development, demonstration, and commercial appli-
24 cation of technologies, including the accelerated de-
25 velopment of—

- 1 “(A) chemical looping technology;
- 2 “(B) supercritical carbon dioxide power
- 3 generation cycles;
- 4 “(C) pressurized oxycombustion, including
- 5 new and retrofit technologies; and
- 6 “(D) other technologies that are character-
- 7 ized by the use of—
- 8 “(i) alternative energy cycles;
- 9 “(ii) thermionic devices using waste
- 10 heat;
- 11 “(iii) fuel cells;
- 12 “(iv) replacement of chemical proc-
- 13 esses with biotechnology;
- 14 “(v) nanotechnology;
- 15 “(vi) new materials in applications
- 16 (other than extending cycles to higher tem-
- 17 perature and pressure), such as mem-
- 18 branes or ceramics;
- 19 “(vii) carbon utilization, such as in
- 20 construction materials, using low quality
- 21 energy to reconvert back to a fuel, or man-
- 22 ufactured food;
- 23 “(viii) advanced gas separation con-
- 24 cepts; and
- 25 “(ix) other technologies, including—

1 “(I) modular, manufactured com-
2 ponents; and

3 “(II) innovative production or re-
4 search techniques, such as using 3-D
5 printer systems, for the production of
6 early research and development proto-
7 types.

8 “(2) COST SHARE.—In carrying out the pro-
9 gram described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
10 enter into partnerships with private entities to share
11 the costs of carrying out the program. The Secretary
12 may reduce the non-Federal cost share requirement
13 if the Secretary determines that the reduction is nec-
14 essary and appropriate considering the technological
15 risks involved in the project.”; and

16 (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated) by
17 striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out programs
19 authorized by this section, the Secretary shall iden-
20 tify cost and performance goals for coal-based tech-
21 nologies that would permit the continued cost-com-
22 petitive use of coal for the production of electricity,
23 chemical feedstocks, transportation fuels, and other
24 marketable products.”.

1 (b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
2 PROPRIATIONS.—Section 963 of the Energy Policy Act of
3 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293) is amended—

4 (1) by amending paragraph (6) of subsection
5 (c) to read as follows:

6 “(6) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
8 graph (B), the Secretary shall establish an advi-
9 sory committee to undertake, not less fre-
10 quently than once every 3 years, a review and
11 prepare a report on the progress being made by
12 the Department of Energy to achieve the goals
13 described in subsections (a) and (b) of section
14 962 and subsection (b) of this section.

15 “(B) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.—
16 Members of the advisory committee established
17 under subparagraph (A) shall be appointed by
18 the Secretary.”; and

19 (2) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(d) STUDY OF CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.—Not
22 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Amer-
23 ica COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, the Sec-
24 retary shall transmit to Congress the results of a study
25 to assess the cost and feasibility of engineering, permit-

1 ting, building, maintaining, regulating, and insuring a na-
2 tional system of carbon dioxide pipelines.”.

3 **SEC. 663. HIGH EFFICIENCY GAS TURBINES RESEARCH AND**
4 **DEVELOPMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Office
6 of Fossil Energy, shall carry out a multiyear, multiphase
7 program of research, development, demonstration, and
8 commercial application to innovate technologies to maxi-
9 mize the efficiency of gas turbines used in power genera-
10 tion systems.

11 (b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program under this
12 section shall—

13 (1) support innovative engineering and detailed
14 gas turbine design for megawatt-scale and utility-
15 scale electric power generation, including—

16 (A) high temperature materials, including
17 superalloys, coatings, and ceramics;

18 (B) improved heat transfer capability;

19 (C) manufacturing technology required to
20 construct complex three-dimensional geometry
21 parts with improved aerodynamic capability;

22 (D) combustion technology to produce
23 higher firing temperature while lowering nitro-
24 gen oxide and carbon monoxide emissions per
25 unit of output;

1 (E) advanced controls and systems integra-
2 tion;

3 (F) advanced high performance compressor
4 technology; and

5 (G) validation facilities for the testing of
6 components and subsystems;

7 (2) include technology demonstration through
8 component testing, subscale testing, and full scale
9 testing in existing fleets;

10 (3) include field demonstrations of the devel-
11 oped technology elements so as to demonstrate tech-
12 nical and economic feasibility; and

13 (4) assess overall combined cycle and simple
14 cycle system performance.

15 (c) PROGRAM GOALS.—The goals of the multiphase
16 program established under subsection (a) shall be—

17 (1) in phase I—

18 (A) to develop the conceptual design of ad-
19 vanced high efficiency gas turbines that can
20 achieve at least 62 percent combined cycle effi-
21 ciency or 47 percent simple cycle efficiency on
22 a lower heating value basis; and

23 (B) to develop and demonstrate the tech-
24 nology required for advanced high efficiency gas
25 turbines that can achieve at least 62 percent

1 combined cycle efficiency or 47 percent simple
2 cycle efficiency on a lower heating value basis;
3 and

4 (2) in phase II, to develop the conceptual de-
5 sign for advanced high efficiency gas turbines that
6 can achieve at least 65 percent combined cycle effi-
7 ciency or 50 percent simple cycle efficiency on a
8 lower heating value basis.

9 (d) PROPOSALS.—Within 180 days after the date of
10 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit grant and
11 contract proposals from industry, small businesses, univer-
12 sities, and other appropriate parties for conducting activi-
13 ties under this section. In selecting proposals, the Sec-
14 retary shall emphasize—

15 (1) the extent to which the proposal will stimu-
16 late the creation or increased retention of jobs in the
17 United States; and

18 (2) the extent to which the proposal will pro-
19 mote and enhance United States technology leader-
20 ship.

21 (e) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—The provision of fund-
22 ing under this section shall be on a competitive basis with
23 an emphasis on technical merit.

1 (f) COST SHARING.—Section 988 of the Energy Pol-
2 icy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) shall apply to an award
3 of financial assistance made under this section.

4 **Subtitle F—Advanced Research**
5 **Projects Agency—Energy**

6 **SEC. 671. ARPA-E AMENDMENTS.**

7 Section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42
8 U.S.C. 16538) is amended—

9 (1) by amending paragraph (1) of subsection
10 (c) to read as follows:

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The goals of ARPA-E
12 shall be to enhance the economic and energy security
13 of the United States and to ensure that the United
14 States maintains a technological lead through the
15 development of advanced energy technologies.”;

16 (2) in subsection (i)(1), by inserting “ARPA-E
17 shall not provide funding for a project unless the
18 prospective grantee demonstrates sufficient attempts
19 to secure private financing as to indicate that the
20 project is not independently commercially viable.”
21 after “relevant research agencies.”;

22 (3) in subsection (l)(1), by inserting “and once
23 every 6 years thereafter,” after “operation for 6
24 years,”; and

1 (4) by redesignating subsection (n) as sub-
2 section (o) and inserting after subsection (m) the
3 following new subsection:

4 “(n) PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY INFORMA-
5 TION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The following categories of
7 information collected by the Advanced Research
8 Projects Agency—Energy from recipients of financial
9 assistance awards shall be considered privileged and
10 confidential and not subject to disclosure pursuant
11 to section 552 of title 5, United States Code:

12 “(A) Plans for commercialization of tech-
13 nologies developed under the award, including
14 business plans, technology to market plans,
15 market studies, and cost and performance mod-
16 els.

17 “(B) Investments provided to an awardee
18 from third parties, such as venture capital,
19 hedge fund, or private equity firms, including
20 amounts and percentage of ownership of the
21 awardee provided in return for such invest-
22 ments.

23 “(C) Additional financial support that the
24 awardee plans to invest or has invested into the

1 technology developed under the award, or that
2 the awardee is seeking from third parties.

3 “(D) Revenue from the licensing or sale of
4 new products or services resulting from the re-
5 search conducted under the award.

6 “(2) EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this
7 subsection affects—

8 “(A) the authority of the Secretary to use
9 information without publicly disclosing such in-
10 formation; or

11 “(B) the responsibility of the Secretary to
12 transmit information to Congress as required
13 by law.”.

14 **Subtitle G—Authorization of** 15 **Appropriations**

16 **SEC. 681. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELI-
18 ABILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—There are au-
19 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for research,
20 development, demonstration, and commercial application
21 for electrical delivery and energy reliability technology ac-
22 tivities within the Office of Electricity \$113,000,000 for
23 each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

24 (b) NUCLEAR ENERGY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Secretary for research, develop-
3 ment, demonstration, and commercial application for
4 nuclear energy technology activities within the Office
5 of Nuclear Energy \$504,600,000 for each of fiscal
6 years 2016 and 2017.

7 (2) LIMITATION.—Any amounts made available
8 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
9 under paragraph (1) shall not be derived from the
10 Nuclear Waste Fund established under section
11 302(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42
12 U.S.C. 10222(c)).

13 (c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE EN-
14 ERGY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
15 Secretary for research, development, demonstration, and
16 commercial application for energy efficiency and renewable
17 energy technology activities within the Office of Energy
18 Efficiency and Renewable Energy \$1,198,500,000 for
19 each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

20 (d) FOSSIL ENERGY.—There are authorized to be ap-
21 propriated to the Secretary for research, development,
22 demonstration, and commercial application for fossil en-
23 ergy technology activities within the Office of Fossil En-
24 ergy \$605,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

(e) ARPA-E.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Subtitle H—Definitions

SEC. 691. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term “Department” means the Department of Energy; and

(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

TITLE VII—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Subtitle A—In General

SEC. 701. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(2) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “National Laboratory” means a Department of Energy nonmilitary national laboratory, including—

(A) Ames Laboratory;

(B) Argonne National Laboratory;

(C) Brookhaven National Laboratory;

- 1 (D) Fermi National Accelerator Labora-
2 tory;
3 (E) Idaho National Laboratory;
4 (F) Lawrence Berkeley National Labora-
5 tory;
6 (G) National Energy Technology Labora-
7 tory;
8 (H) National Renewable Energy Labora-
9 tory;
10 (I) Oak Ridge National Laboratory;
11 (J) Pacific Northwest National Labora-
12 tory;
13 (K) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory;
14 (L) Savannah River National Laboratory;
15 (M) Stanford Linear Accelerator Center;
16 (N) Thomas Jefferson National Accel-
17 erator Facility; and
18 (O) any laboratory operated by the Na-
19 tional Nuclear Security Administration, but
20 only with respect to the civilian energy activities
21 thereof.
- 22 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Energy.

1 **SEC. 702. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

2 Nothing in this title or an amendment made by this
3 title abrogates or otherwise affects the primary respon-
4 sibilities of any National Laboratory to the Department.

5 **Subtitle B—Innovation Manage-**
6 **ment at Department of Energy**

7 **SEC. 711. UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND ENERGY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(b) of the Department
9 of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7132(b)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) by striking “Under Secretary for Science”
12 each place it appears and inserting “Under Sec-
13 retary for Science and Energy”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (4)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the
18 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
19 and

20 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (G)
21 the following:

22 “(H) establish appropriate linkages between of-
23 fices under the jurisdiction of the Under Secretary;
24 and

1 “(I) perform such functions and duties as the
2 Secretary shall prescribe, consistent with this sec-
3 tion.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) Section 3164(b)(1) of the Department of
6 Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42
7 U.S.C. 7381a(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Under
8 Secretary for Science” and inserting “Under Sec-
9 retary for Science and Energy”.

10 (2) Section 641(h)(2) of the United States En-
11 ergy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 (42
12 U.S.C. 17231(h)(2)) is amended by striking “Under
13 Secretary for Science” and inserting “Under Sec-
14 retary for Science and Energy”.

15 **SEC. 712. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TRANSITIONS AS-**
16 **SESSMENT.**

17 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
19 transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
20 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
21 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report
22 which shall include—

23 (1) an assessment of the Department’s current
24 ability to carry out the goals of section 1001 of the
25 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391), in-

1 including an assessment of the role and effectiveness
2 of the Director of the Office of Technology Transi-
3 tions; and

4 (2) recommended departmental policy changes
5 and legislative changes to section 1001 of the En-
6 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391) to im-
7 prove the Department's ability to successfully trans-
8 fer new energy technologies to the private sector.

9 **SEC. 713. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary
11 should encourage the National Laboratories and federally
12 funded research and development centers to inform small
13 businesses of the opportunities and resources that exist
14 pursuant to this title.

15 **SEC. 714. NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION.**

16 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Na-
18 tional Laboratories, relevant Federal agencies, and other
19 stakeholders, shall transmit to the Committee on Science,
20 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
21 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
22 the Senate a report assessing the Department's capabili-
23 ties to authorize, host, and oversee privately funded fusion
24 and non-light water reactor prototypes and related dem-
25 onstration facilities at Department-owned sites. For pur-

1 poses of this report, the Secretary shall consider the De-
2 partment's capabilities to facilitate privately-funded proto-
3 types up to 20 megawatts thermal output. The report shall
4 address the following:

5 (1) The Department's safety review and over-
6 sight capabilities.

7 (2) Potential sites capable of hosting research,
8 development, and demonstration of prototype reac-
9 tors and related facilities for the purpose of reducing
10 technical risk.

11 (3) The Department's and National Labora-
12 tories' existing physical and technical capabilities
13 relevant to research, development, and oversight.

14 (4) The efficacy of the Department's available
15 contractual mechanisms, including cooperative re-
16 search and development agreements, work for others
17 agreements, and agreements for commercializing
18 technology.

19 (5) Potential cost structures related to physical
20 security, decommissioning, liability, and other long-
21 term project costs.

22 (6) Other challenges or considerations identified
23 by the Secretary, including issues related to poten-
24 tial cases of demonstration reactors up to 2
25 gigawatts of thermal output.

1 **Subtitle C—Cross-Sector Partner-**
2 **ships and Grant Competitive-**
3 **ness**

4 **SEC. 721. AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIALIZING TECH-**
5 **NOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the
7 Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot pro-
8 gram of the Department, as announced by the Secretary
9 on December 8, 2011, in accordance with this section.

10 (b) TERMS.—Each agreement entered into pursuant
11 to the pilot program referred to in subsection (a) shall
12 provide to the contractor of the applicable National Lab-
13 oratory, to the maximum extent determined to be appro-
14 priate by the Secretary, increased authority to negotiate
15 contract terms, such as intellectual property rights, pay-
16 ment structures, performance guarantees, and multiparty
17 collaborations.

18 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any director of a National
20 Laboratory may enter into an agreement pursuant
21 to the pilot program referred to in subsection (a).

22 (2) AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTI-
23 TIES.—To carry out paragraph (1) and subject to
24 paragraph (3), the Secretary shall permit the direc-
25 tors of the National Laboratories to execute agree-

1 ments with a non-Federal entity, including a non-
2 Federal entity already receiving Federal funding
3 that will be used to support activities under agree-
4 ments executed pursuant to paragraph (1), provided
5 that such funding is solely used to carry out the
6 purposes of the Federal award.

7 (3) RESTRICTION.—The requirements of chap-
8 ter 18 of title 35, United States Code (commonly
9 known as the “Bayh-Dole Act”) shall apply if—

10 (A) the agreement is a funding agreement
11 (as that term is defined in section 201 of that
12 title); and

13 (B) at least 1 of the parties to the funding
14 agreement is eligible to receive rights under
15 that chapter.

16 (d) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.—Each affected di-
17 rector of a National Laboratory shall submit to the Sec-
18 retary, with respect to each agreement entered into under
19 this section—

20 (1) a summary of information relating to the
21 relevant project;

22 (2) the total estimated costs of the project;

23 (3) estimated commencement and completion
24 dates of the project; and

1 (4) other documentation determined to be ap-
2 propriate by the Secretary.

3 (e) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall require the
4 contractor of the affected National Laboratory to certify
5 that each activity carried out under a project for which
6 an agreement is entered into under this section—

7 (1) is not in direct competition with the private
8 sector; and

9 (2) does not present, or minimizes, any appar-
10 ent conflict of interest, and avoids or neutralizes any
11 actual conflict of interest, as a result of the agree-
12 ment under this section.

13 (f) EXTENSION.—The pilot program referred to in
14 subsection (a) shall be extended until October 31, 2017.

15 (g) REPORTS.—

16 (1) OVERALL ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60
17 days after the date described in subsection (f), the
18 Secretary, in coordination with directors of the Na-
19 tional Laboratories, shall submit to the Committee
20 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
21 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
22 Natural Resources of the Senate a report that—

23 (A) assesses the overall effectiveness of the
24 pilot program referred to in subsection (a);

1 (B) identifies opportunities to improve the
2 effectiveness of the pilot program;

3 (C) assesses the potential for program ac-
4 tivities to interfere with the responsibilities of
5 the National Laboratories to the Department;
6 and

7 (D) provides a recommendation regarding
8 the future of the pilot program.

9 (2) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary, in coordi-
10 nation with directors of the National Laboratories,
11 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,
12 and Technology of the House of Representatives and
13 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
14 the Senate an annual report that accounts for all
15 incidences of, and provides a justification for, non-
16 Federal entities using funds derived from a Federal
17 contract or award to carry out agreements pursuant
18 to this section.

19 **SEC. 722. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMER-**
20 **CIALIZATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c),
22 the Secretary shall delegate to directors of the National
23 Laboratories signature authority with respect to any
24 agreement described in subsection (b) the total cost of

1 which (including the National Laboratory contributions
2 and project recipient cost share) is less than \$1,000,000.

3 (b) AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a) applies to—

4 (1) a cooperative research and development
5 agreement;

6 (2) a non-Federal work-for-others agreement;
7 and

8 (3) any other agreement determined to be ap-
9 propriate by the Secretary, in collaboration with the
10 directors of the National Laboratories.

11 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

12 (1) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The director of the af-
13 fected National Laboratory and the affected con-
14 tractor shall carry out an agreement under this sec-
15 tion in accordance with applicable policies of the De-
16 partment, including by ensuring that the agreement
17 does not compromise any national security, eco-
18 nomic, or environmental interest of the United
19 States.

20 (2) CERTIFICATION.—The director of the af-
21 fected National Laboratory and the affected con-
22 tractor shall certify that each activity carried out
23 under a project for which an agreement is entered
24 into under this section does not present, or mini-
25 mizes, any apparent conflict of interest, and avoids

1 or neutralizes any actual conflict of interest, as a re-
2 sult of the agreement under this section.

3 (3) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS.—On entering
4 an agreement under this section, the director of a
5 National Laboratory shall submit to the Secretary
6 for monitoring and review all records of the National
7 Laboratory relating to the agreement.

8 (4) RATES.—The director of a National Lab-
9 oratory may charge higher rates for services per-
10 formed under a partnership agreement entered into
11 pursuant to this section, regardless of the full cost
12 of recovery, if such funds are used exclusively to
13 support further research and development activities
14 at the respective National Laboratory.

15 (d) EXCEPTION.—This section does not apply to any
16 agreement with a majority foreign-owned company.

17 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 12 of the
18 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
19 U.S.C. 3710a) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
22 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
23 and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

24 (B) by striking “Each Federal agency”
25 and inserting the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), each Federal agency”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph
5 (1), in accordance with section 722(a) of the Amer-
6 ica COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, ap-
7 proval by the Secretary of Energy shall not be re-
8 quired for any technology transfer agreement pro-
9 posed to be entered into by a National Laboratory
10 of the Department of Energy, the total cost of which
11 (including the National Laboratory contributions
12 and project recipient cost share) is less than
13 \$1,000,000.”; and

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “subsection
15 (a)(1)” each place it appears and inserting “sub-
16 section (a)(1)(A)”.

17 **SEC. 723. INCLUSION OF EARLY-STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEM-**
18 **ONSTRATION IN AUTHORIZED TECHNOLOGY**
19 **TRANSFER ACTIVITIES.**

20 Section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
21 U.S.C. 16391) is amended by—

22 (1) redesignating subsection (g) as subsection
23 (h); and

24 (2) inserting after subsection (f) the following:

1 “(g) EARLY-STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRA-
 2 TION.—The Secretary shall permit the directors of the Na-
 3 tional Laboratories to use funds authorized to support
 4 technology transfer within the Department to carry out
 5 early-stage and pre-commercial technology demonstration
 6 activities to remove technology barriers that limit private
 7 sector interest and demonstrate potential commercial ap-
 8 plications of any research and technologies arising from
 9 National Laboratory activities.”.

10 **SEC. 724. FUNDING COMPETITIVENESS FOR INSTITUTIONS**
 11 **OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER NON-**
 12 **PROFIT INSTITUTIONS.**

13 Section 988(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
 14 U.S.C. 16352(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except as
 16 provided in paragraphs (2) and (3)” and inserting
 17 “Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and
 18 (4)”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) EXEMPTION FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGH-
 21 ER EDUCATION AND OTHER NONPROFIT INSTITU-
 22 TIONS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall
 24 not apply to a research or development activity
 25 performed by an institution of higher education

1 or nonprofit institution (as defined in section 4
 2 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation
 3 Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)).

4 “(B) TERMINATION DATE.—The exemp-
 5 tion under subparagraph (A) shall apply during
 6 the 6-year period beginning on the date of en-
 7 actment of this paragraph.”.

8 **SEC. 725. PARTICIPATION IN THE INNOVATION CORPS PRO-**
 9 **GRAM.**

10 The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the
 11 Director of the National Science Foundation to enable re-
 12 searchers funded by the Department to participate in the
 13 National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program.

14 **Subtitle D—Assessment of Impact**

15 **SEC. 731. REPORT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OF-**
 16 **FICE.**

17 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
 18 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
 19 shall submit to Congress a report—

20 (1) describing the results of the projects devel-
 21 oped under sections 721, 722, and 723, including in-
 22 formation regarding—

23 (A) partnerships initiated as a result of
 24 those projects and the potential linkages pre-
 25 sented by those partnerships with respect to na-

1 tional priorities and other taxpayer-funded re-
2 search; and

3 (B) whether the activities carried out
4 under those projects result in—

5 (i) fiscal savings;

6 (ii) expansion of National Laboratory
7 capabilities;

8 (iii) increased efficiency of technology
9 transfers; or

10 (iv) an increase in general efficiency
11 of the National Laboratory system; and

12 (2) assess the scale, scope, efficacy, and impact
13 of the Department's efforts to promote technology
14 transfer and private sector engagement at the Na-
15 tional Laboratories, and make recommendations on
16 how the Department can improve these activities.

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