

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1372

To provide for a Center for Nanotechnology Research and Engineering.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2007

Mr. PRYOR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for a Center for Nanotechnology Research and Engineering.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nanotechnology Infra-
5 structure Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The 21st Century Nanotechnology Research
9 and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) re-
10 quired that interdisciplinary nanotechnology research
11 centers be established in geographically diverse loca-

1 tions including institutions located in States participating
2 in the EPSCoR.

3 (2) The National Science Foundation funds 16
4 Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers and 1
5 National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network
6 with 13 nodes that combined involve more than 50
7 universities and colleges in the United States. The
8 awards for the centers and network were made on
9 the basis of a peer reviewed competition.

10 (3) Only 3 EPSCoR States have institutions of
11 higher education with major participation in the pro-
12 grams of the National Science Foundation centers
13 and network described in paragraph (2). Other Na-
14 tional Science Foundation programs support 4 addi-
15 tional EPSCoR State grants in the field of
16 nanotechnology.

17 (4) The National Science Foundation's
18 EPSCoR is the primary program by which the Na-
19 tional Science Foundation seeks to provide an oppor-
20 tunity for States that traditionally have received lim-
21 ited amounts of federal research and development
22 funding to improve the research infrastructure of
23 their academic institutions. EPSCoR is an impor-
24 tant component of national efforts to improve

1 science, technology, and engineering education, in-
2 crease innovation, and enhance competitiveness.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this section:

5 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
6 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

7 (2) EPSCOR.—The term “EPSCoR” means the
8 Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Re-
9 search authorized in section 113 of the National
10 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42
11 U.S.C. 1862g).

12 **SEC. 4. CENTER FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND**
13 **ENGINEERING.**

14 (a) CENTER ESTABLISHED.—From amounts appro-
15 priated under subsection (e), the Director shall establish
16 a geographically diverse, interdisciplinary Center for
17 Nanotechnology Research and Engineering (hereafter in
18 this section referred to as the “Center”) to focus on—

19 (1) the science and engineering of manufac-
20 turing at the nanoscale in multiple dimensions; or

21 (2) nanotechnology for sustainable energy,
22 water, agriculture, and the environment.

23 (b) CENTER OR NODE.—The Center may be a
24 Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center or a National
25 Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network node.

1 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Center—

2 (1) shall consist of a lead academic institution
3 located in an EPSCoR State;

9 (d) DUTIES.—The Center shall—

10 (1) conduct state-of-the-art research on
11 nanomanufacturing;

12 (2) collaborate with other National Science
13 Foundation grantees, and with grantees from other
14 Federal agencies, working on nanomanufacturing;

15 (3) share resources with the programs of the
16 grantees described in paragraph (2) for the purpose
17 of mutual advantage; and

18 (4) work toward a nanomanufacturing network
19 that encourages extensive industrial collaboration

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science
22 Foundation to carry out this section \$2,500,000 for each
23 of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

