

in the structure and construction techniques that are used to apply those materials, but also to begin to have a better ability to predict how these storms form and, in the future, be able to give more warning, but just doing the research overall of how we can do better at predicting and also helping the American people do mitigation against these kinds of storms and understand the mechanics of them.

Basically, what this NWIRP does is take four agencies and pool them together in how they spend money for this important research. It takes NOAA, the National Science Foundation, FEMA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, and basically makes sure that they are coordinating and sharing that information.

What is so important about using Federal tax dollars to do that research is to make sure that we are transforming that out into the general public. And so as we learn about these techniques and we begin to make suggestions of how building codes, building standards, and building techniques can be improved in the future, we thereby save lives and property down the road. That is an important part of this.

What we learned is that for every dollar that we spend in mitigation, we save \$4 in response down the road. And so not only is this a piece of legislation that will help save lives and property, but a really novel idea of saving the American taxpayers money at the same time.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that is bipartisan. It passed out of the committee in a bipartisan way. It will save lives; it will save money; and it will save property. I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Home and Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 1786, the "National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014."

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Houston is vulnerable to hurricanes that traverse the Gulf of Mexico and we have experienced powerful storms during the past decade.

Hurricane Ike heavily impacted Houston and nearby city of Galveston in 2008, causing \$27.8 billion in damage, and killing 20.

Tropical storms in Texas are also known for being heavy rain producers as well as wind surge threats. For example, tropical storm Allison in 2001 dumped as much as 35 to 40 inches of rain, killing 41 people and causing \$9 billion in damage.

We are currently in the 2014 hurricane season and forecasters are expecting one to two major hurricanes.

This bill amends the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 to revise provisions governing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) as well as designates the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as the entity with primary responsibility for Program planning and coordination.

Congress, under the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004, designated four agencies to compromise the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Science Foundation (NSF)

The federal agencies which compromised the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction will have the following respective responsibilities.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the program, carry out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will support research in engineering and atmospheric sciences and economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will support atmospheric sciences research to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will support the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques, conduct public outreach and information dissemination, and promote the adoption of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures.

The bill will also require the Committee to submit a progress report to Congress and to develop a coordinated budget for the Program which must be submitted at the time of the President's annual budget submission.

Finally, the bill allows the Director of NIST to establish an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction which shall be composed of at least 7 members. This advisory committee will offer assessments and practices of wind storm impact mitigation.

This coordinated effort will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of federal efforts to save lives in Houston and around the country as well as mitigate property loss.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious, and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1786, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5056) to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Research and Development Efficiency Act".

SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) high and increasing administrative burdens and costs in Federal research administration, particularly in the higher education sector where most federally sponsored research is performed, are eroding funds available to carry out basic scientific research;

(2) progress has been made over the last decade in streamlining the pre-award grant application process through Grants.gov, the Federal Government's website portal;

(3) post-award administrative costs have grown as Federal research agencies have continued to impose agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements on researchers and research institutions;

(4) facilities and administration costs at research universities can exceed 50 percent of the total value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annually in federally funded research is consumed by paperwork and other administrative processes required by Federal agencies; and

(5) it is a matter of critical importance to American competitiveness that administrative costs of federally funded research be streamlined so that a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into direct research activities.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working group under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council, to include the Office of Management and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and research universities and making recommendations on how to—

(1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative Federal regulations and reporting requirements; and

(2) minimize the regulatory burden on United States institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for Federal tax dollars.

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (b), the working group shall take into account input and recommendations from non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations, nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small businesses, federally funded research and development centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,

Science, and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations of the working group established under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5056, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, chairman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, LARRY BUCSHON, in support of this legislation, which reduces the regulatory burden faced by researchers and research universities.

In its recently released report, the Federal Demonstration Partnership found that researchers devote 42 percent of their time to administrative tasks. Answering Federal regulatory and reporting requirements takes away from time spent on the conduct of science.

H.R. 5056 requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a working group under the National Science and Technology Council to review Federal regulations that affect research and research universities. The working group is tasked with making recommendations on how to harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative Federal regulations and reporting requirements, and making recommendations on how to minimize the regulatory burden on research institutions.

H.R. 5056 is an important step to ensure Federal research dollars are being spent on research and not on regulatory requirements. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5056, the Research and Development Efficiency Act.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. PETERS, for introducing this important bill. As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, I have also been working on a topic of research regulations for some time, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill.

Recent reports have found that federally funded researchers face significant administrative burdens, spending about 40 percent of their time on paperwork instead of what they do best, which is

conducting research. This could mean a delay in research progress and lengthening the time for the next scientific breakthrough. It is certainly not the best use of some of our Nation's greatest science and engineering talent or of taxpayers' investment in that talent.

I want to stress that administrative requirements are very important and many are in place for a reason. We must have a system that ensures that human participants are being protected and our resources are being used wisely. We have heard from those most affected by these requirements, and they fully agree.

That being said, we also agree that we need to find the right balance that meets our safety and accountability goals, but still allows researchers to advance science for the good of the Nation. Right now, we are not striking the appropriate balance.

H.R. 5056 was originally introduced by Chairman BUCSHON as part of the FIRST Act. The America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2014, which Ranking Member JOHNSON introduced and I cosponsored, had very similar language with the same goal.

This bill requires the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a working group of Federal research agencies to figure out how to better standardize and streamline the administrative requirements on their grantees. Mr. PETERS helped strengthen the provision during the subcommittee consideration of the FIRST Act with an amendment that ensured that those stakeholders who are affected by all of the requirements have a means to provide input and recommendations to the agency working group. The result is the bipartisan bill that we are considering today.

Through a recent OMB process to overhaul their guidance on requirements for Federal grants and contracts, some progress has been made to streamline and harmonize administrative tasks. Some agencies are taking additional steps on their own, for example, considering requiring certain administrative information from researchers only if the proposal has been through scientific merit review and is likely to be awarded. These are important efforts, but significant work remains.

Every week in the Science Committee we hear expert testimony on challenges with no easy solution. The challenge of having a patchwork of uncoordinated and sometimes duplicative administrative burdens on federally funded researchers should be a solvable problem. H.R. 5056 is a very important step in the right direction.

Once again, I want to thank Chairman BUCSHON and Mr. PETERS for their leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support their legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana, Dr. BUCSHON, who is also the chairman of

the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the Science Committee and the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BUCSHON. Thank you, Chairman SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to work on this bipartisan effort to reduce the administrative burden placed on federally funded researchers.

Last year, in my new role as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, I participated in a university tour across the State of Indiana. This tour focused on federally funded research in the State of Indiana, and included Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Indiana State University, both located in Terre Haute, Indiana, and the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana, both in Evansville, Indiana, and the issues of concern these higher education institutions have surrounding federally funded research.

Along with the input I received during last year's tour, we have also received feedback and input at various hearings the committee has held pertaining to this regulatory burden.

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This legislation would establish a working group to review Federal regulations that affect these universities and others. The working group would be required to obtain input from stakeholders, including federally and non-federally funded researchers, higher education institutions, small businesses, and scientific disciplinary societies. The bill also requires a report on what steps are taken to carry out the recommendations of the working group.

I would like to thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member JOHNSON, my colleague Mr. PETERS from California, and my colleague Mr. LIPINSKI from Illinois for their work on the bill. I am hopeful this bipartisan legislation can see movement in the Senate and that, from there, we can help to alleviate some of the burden placed on our research universities so they can get back to the main goal of conducting basic science research.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman BUCSHON and Chairman SMITH for their work not just on this bill but on the series of bills that we are considering today.

The Research and Technology Subcommittee, which Chairman BUCSHON is chairman of and I am ranking member of, has been very active in this Congress. We had been working on the first act, and I am very happy that, although there were some disagreements on that bill, which did pass through committee, that, today, we are considering pieces of that bill and other legislation that we have worked on, in a bipartisan manner, on that subcommittee and on this committee. I am very happy we have been able to do that.

There is a lot that we need to accomplish and that we are moving forward on accomplishing now on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Chairman BUCSHON for all of their work, and, hopefully, that will continue as we move forward in this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, the ranking member of the subcommittee, for his very generous comments. They are much appreciated. We have lots to thank him for as well on this bill and on many other bills on which he has shown a leadership role and on which he has contributed much to many bills under consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5056.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5029) to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5029

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a body under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the United States science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support United States foreign policy goals.

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

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

(1) coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research

and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies and work with other National Science and Technology Council committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;

(2) establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;

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

(4) in carrying out paragraph (3), solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including universities, scientific and professional societies, industry, and relevant organizations and institutions; and

(5) identify broad issues that influence the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a report, to be updated annually, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate. The report shall also be made available to the public on the reporting agency’s website. The report shall contain a description of—

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

(2) the ongoing and new partnerships established since the last update to the report;

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5029, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Science and technology research addresses the major challenges facing our Nation. These include energy production, public health, national security, and economic development.

H.R. 5029, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014, will improve our collaboration efforts with international partners on scientific issues.

I thank the ranking member, Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois, for his initiative on

this issue and, as I mentioned a while ago, for his initiative on so many bills that are being considered today.

Better collaboration with our international partners will strengthen the U.S. scientific activities and will additionally promote the free exchange of ideas in other nations.

While many Federal agencies are engaged with international partners on science and technology projects, there is a need to coordinate these projects across the Federal Government and to identify opportunities for additional collaborations. Interagency coordination ensures that tax dollars are used efficiently and that U.S. priorities are consistently addressed when working with our international partners on science and technology issues.

The International Science and Technology Cooperation Act directs the National Science and Technology Council to identify and coordinate the U.S. interagency strategy for international science and technology cooperation. Further, this council will make recommendations for how to improve U.S. engagement in science and technology cooperation with our global partners. This will help ensure that the U.S. maintains its leadership in science and technology research and discovery.

The bill strengthens U.S. science and technology activities, improves economic and national security, and supports U.S. foreign policy goals. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5029.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The U.S. has a great tradition of using science diplomacy to strengthen our ties with allies and to open the door to building better relationships across the globe. That is why I introduced H.R. 5029, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014.

Scientific issues know no boundaries and deal with problems and opportunities of the highest importance to the entire world. Improvements in such areas as energy security, infectious diseases, space exploration, telecommunications and the Internet, and many more are due, in part, to international cooperation—to the benefit of all nations involved. By collaborating with international partners on science, we strengthen the U.S. scientific enterprise, which helps us get the best return on our research investment.

This bipartisan bill would improve international science cooperation by requiring the National Science and Technology Council at the White House to maintain a body that would identify and coordinate U.S. interagency strategy for international science and technology cooperation. Many Federal agencies already work with international counterparts on science and technological issues, but until recently, there was no coordinating body to identify new partnerships and to fully leverage existing collaborations.