

historically Black college, has contributed to a rich and diverse history in my district. Four thousand students proudly call this university home in Florida's Sixth District, and we are proud of all of Bethune Cookman's accomplishments, especially in STEM fields.

Minorities make up nearly 30 percent of America's population, but nationwide, as my distinguished colleague from Oklahoma and the administration have noted, we are seeing a gap in minority representation in STEM fields. Believe it or not, minorities only account for 11 percent of the STEM workforce.

As we all know, the demand for STEM fields is at an all-time high. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. If we want America to compete and succeed, we must and we need to make sure our workforce reflects our country's diversity. The bill we are considering today, the MSI STEM Achievement Act, would help increase the capacity for minority students and STEM curricula and encourage partnerships with industry and Federal laboratories.

In short, this bill will enhance our domestic workforce, so as to ensure America continues to compete globally. If America wants to lead militarily, economically, and critically in space, we must lead in STEM.

I would be remiss to not also mention the importance of women in STEM. As I have said countless times since I have been elected, and will continue to say, from my experiences as a veteran and a Green Beret fighting all over the globe, where women thrive in business, where women thrive in civil society and in politics, extremism doesn't, and it is just that simple. And for that reason, diversity in STEM is truly a national security issue.

And in Volusia County, in my district in Florida, just north of Cape Canaveral and just north of the Kennedy Space Center, we are seeing countless businesses participate in workforce development programs like the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program. This program and so many others are making huge strides to advance STEM curriculum and workforce development.

As the Republican lead on the MSI STEM Achievement Act, I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for working with me to improve participation in STEM at these critically important MSIs.

For America's continued predominance in science and technology, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and for its passage.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The United States is in a race to remain the world leader in science and technology. The only way we will win is by utilizing America's most valuable

resource, our people. This means developing a diverse, STEM-capable workforce at every educational level and from every background.

Creating opportunities for students to not only develop STEM knowledge but also to have hands-on experience is essential. Research shows that students, especially those from underrepresented minority backgrounds, are more likely to graduate from science and engineering programs if they have opportunities to engage in STEM course content with peers, participate in undergraduate research, and join science clubs and organizations.

This bill will support such STEM education and training activities at MSIs, providing these students with the skills necessary to develop and flourish in the 21st century. These investments will help grow our workforce, improve our economy, and protect our country.

I, again, would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative WALTZ for their leadership, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I simply want to thank all of the Members and staff involved in this legislation. I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4372, 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.

□ 1515

ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4373) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4373

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 "Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Cellular and molecular processes may be used, mimicked, or redesigned to develop new products, processes, and systems that improve societal well-being, strengthen na-

tional security, and contribute to the economy.

(2) Engineering biology relies on a workforce with a diverse and unique set of skills combining the biological, physical, chemical, and information sciences and engineering.

(3) Long-term research and development is necessary to create breakthroughs in engineering biology. Such research and development requires government investment as many of the benefits are too distant or uncertain for industry to support alone.

(4) Research is necessary to inform evidence-based governance of engineering biology and to support the growth of the engineering biology industry.

(5) The Federal Government can play an important role by facilitating the development of tools and technologies to further advance engineering biology, including user facilities, by facilitating public-private partnerships, by supporting risk research, and by facilitating the commercial application in the United States of research funded by the Federal Government.

(5) The United States led the development of the science and engineering techniques that created the field of engineering biology, but due to increasing international competition, the United States is at risk of losing its competitive advantage if does not invest the necessary resources and have a national strategy.

(6) A National Engineering Biology Initiative can serve to establish new research directions and technology goals, improve interagency coordination and planning processes, drive technology transfer to the private sector, and help ensure optimal returns on the Federal investment.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BIOMANUFACTURING.—The term "biomanufacturing" means the utilization of biological systems to develop new and advance existing products, tools, and processes at commercial scale.

(2) ENGINEERING BIOLOGY.—The term "engineering biology" means the application of engineering design principles and practices to biological systems, including molecular and cellular systems, to advance fundamental understanding of complex natural systems and to enable novel or optimize functions and capabilities.

(3) INITIATIVE.—The term "Initiative" means the National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative established under section 4.

(4) OMICS.—The term "omics" refers to the collective technologies used to explore the roles, relationships, and actions of the various types of molecules that make up the cells of an organism.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall implement a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative to advance societal well-being, national security, sustainability, and economic productivity and competitiveness through—

(1) advancing areas of research at the intersection of the biological, physical, chemical, and information sciences and engineering to accelerate scientific understanding and technological innovation in engineering biology;

(2) advancing areas of biomanufacturing research to optimize, standardize, scale, and deliver new products and solutions;

(3) supporting social and behavioral sciences and economics research that advances the field of engineering biology and

contributes to the development and public understanding of new products, processes, and technologies;

(4) supporting risk research, including under subsection (d);

(5) supporting the development of novel tools and technologies to accelerate scientific understanding and technological innovation in engineering biology;

(6) expanding the number of researchers, educators, and students with engineering biology training, including from traditionally underserved populations;

(7) accelerating the translation and commercialization of engineering biology research and development by the private sector; and

(8) improving the interagency planning and coordination of Federal Government activities related to engineering biology.

(b) **INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES.**—The activities of the Initiative shall include—

(1) sustained support for engineering biology research and development through—

(A) grants to individual investigators and teams of investigators, including interdisciplinary teams;

(B) projects funded under joint solicitations by a collaboration of no fewer than two agencies participating in the Initiative; and

(C) interdisciplinary research centers that are organized to investigate basic research questions, carry out technology development and demonstration activities, and increase understanding of how to scale up engineering biology processes, including biomanufacturing;

(2) sustained support for databases and related tools, including—

(A) support for curated genomics, epigenomics, and all other relevant omics databases, including plant and microbial databases, that are available to researchers to carry out engineering biology research;

(B) development of standards for such databases, including for curation, interoperability, and protection of privacy and security; and

(C) support for the development of computational tools, including artificial intelligence tools, that can accelerate research and innovation using such databases; and

(D) an inventory and assessment of all Federal government omics databases to identify opportunities for consolidation and inform investment in such databases as critical infrastructure for the engineering biology research enterprise;

(3) sustained support for the development, optimization, and validation of novel tools and technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ, including through grants to investigators at institutions of higher education and other non-profit research institutions, and through the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638);

(4) education and training of undergraduate and graduate students in engineering biology, in biomanufacturing, in bioprocess engineering, and in areas of computational science applied to engineering biology;

(5) activities to develop robust mechanisms for tracking and quantifying the outputs and economic benefits of engineering biology; and

(6) activities to accelerate the translation and commercialization of new products, processes, and technologies by—

(A) identifying precompetitive research opportunities;

(B) facilitating public-private partnerships in engineering biology research and development;

(C) connecting researchers, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with entrepreneurship education and training opportunities; and

(D) supporting proof of concept activities and the formation of startup companies including through programs such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(c) **EXPANDING PARTICIPATION.**—The Initiative shall include, to the maximum extent practicable, outreach to primarily undergraduate and minority-serving institutions about Initiative opportunities, and shall encourage the development of research collaborations between research-intensive universities and primarily undergraduate and minority-serving institutions.

(d) **ETHICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, SECURITY, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES.**—Initiative activities shall take into account ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues by—

(1) supporting research, including in the social sciences, and other activities addressing ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology, including integrating research on such topics with the research and development in engineering biology, and ensuring that the results of such research are widely disseminated, including through interdisciplinary engineering biology research centers described in subsection (b)(1);

(2) supporting research and other activities related to the safety and security implications of engineering biology, including outreach to increase awareness among federally-funded researchers at institutions of higher education about potential safety and security implications of engineering biology research, as appropriate;

(3) ensuring that input from Federal and non-Federal experts on the ethical, legal, environmental, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology is integrated into the Initiative; and

(4) ensuring, through the agencies and departments that participate in the Initiative, that public input and outreach are integrated into the Initiative by the convening of regular and ongoing public discussions through mechanisms such as workshops, consensus conferences, and educational events, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. INITIATIVE COORDINATION.

(a) **INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.**—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate an interagency committee to coordinate engineering biology, which shall be co-chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and include representatives from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and any other agency that the President considers appropriate (in this section referred to as the “interagency committee”). The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall select an additional co-chairperson from among the members of the Interagency Committee. The Interagency Committee shall oversee the planning, management, and coordination of the Initiative. The Interagency Committee shall—

(1) provide for interagency coordination of Federal engineering biology research, development, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Initiative;

(2) establish and periodically update goals and priorities for the Initiative;

(3) develop, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and update every 3 years, a strategic plan that—

(A) guides the activities of the Initiative for purposes of meeting the goals and priorities established under (and updated pursuant to) paragraph (2); and

(B) describes—

(i) the Initiative's support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary engineering biology research and development;

(ii) the Initiative's support for education and public outreach activities;

(iii) the Initiative's support for research and other activities on ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology;

(iv) how the Initiative will move results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society and United States competitiveness; and

(v) how the Initiative will measure and track the contributions of engineering biology to United States economic growth and other societal indicators;

(4) develop a national genomic sequencing strategy to ensure engineering biology research fully leverages plant, animal, and microbe biodiversity to enhance long-term innovation and competitiveness in engineering biology in the United States;

(5) propose an annually coordinated interagency budget for the Initiative that is intended to ensure—

(A) the maintenance of a robust engineering biology research and development portfolio; and

(B) that the balance of funding across the Initiative is sufficient to meet the goals and priorities established for the Program;

(6) develop a plan to utilize Federal programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), in support of the activities described in section 4(b)(3); and

(7) in carrying out this section, take into consideration the recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 6, the results of the workshop convened under section 7, existing reports on related topics, and the views of academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Beginning with fiscal year 2020, not later than 90 days after submission of the President's annual budget request and each fiscal year thereafter, the interagency committee shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a summarized agency budget in support of the Initiative for the fiscal year to which such budget request applies, and for the then current fiscal year, including a breakout of spending for each agency participating in the Program and for the development and acquisition of any research facilities and instrumentation; and

(2) an assessment of how Federal agencies are implementing the plan described in subsection (a)(3), and a description of the amount and number of awards made under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)) in support of the Initiative.

(c) **INITIATIVE OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall establish an Initiative Coordination Office, with a Director and full-time staff, which shall—

(A) provide technical and administrative support to the interagency committee and

the advisory committee established under section 6;

(B) serve as the point of contact on Federal engineering biology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State governments, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

(C) oversee interagency coordination of the Initiative, including by encouraging and supporting joint agency solicitation and selection of applications for funding of activities under the Initiative;

(D) conduct public outreach, including dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 6, as appropriate; and

(E) promote access to, and early application of, the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Initiative activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government, and to United States industry, including startup companies.

(2) **FUNDING.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop an estimate of the funds necessary to carry out the activities of the Initiative Coordination Office, including an estimate of how much each participating agency described in subsection (a) will contribute to such funds, and submit such estimate to Congress no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

(3) **TERMINATION.**—The Initiative Coordination Office established under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, unless a determination is made by the President that such Office is necessary to meet the economic or national security goals of the Program.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate or establish an advisory committee on engineering biology research and development (in this section referred to as the “advisory committee”) to be composed of not fewer than 12 members, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry, and nongovernmental entities, who are qualified to provide advice on the Initiative.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The advisory committee shall assess—

(1) the current state of United States competitiveness in engineering biology, including the scope and scale of United States investments in engineering biology research and development in the international context;

(2) current market barriers to commercialization of engineering biology products, processes, and tools in the United States;

(3) progress made in implementing the Initiative;

(4) the need to revise the Initiative;

(5) the balance of activities and funding across the Initiative;

(6) whether the strategic plan developed or updated by the interagency committee established under section 5 is helping to maintain United States leadership in engineering biology;

(7) the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Initiative; and

(8) whether ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues are adequately addressed by the Initiative.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the advisory committee shall submit to the President, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the findings of the advisory committee’s assessment under subsection (b); and

(2) the advisory committee’s recommendations for ways to improve the Initiative.

(d) **APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

SEC. 7. EXTERNAL REVIEW OF ETHICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a review, and make recommendations with respect to, the ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology research and development. The review shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current research on such issues;

(2) a description of the research gaps relating to such issues;

(3) recommendations on how the Initiative can address the research needs identified pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(4) recommendations on how engineering biology researchers can best incorporate considerations of ethical, legal, environmental, and other societal issues into the development of research proposals and the conduct of research.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings and recommendations of the review conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) make a copy of such report available on a publicly accessible website.

SEC. 8. AGENCY ACTIVITIES.

(a) **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—As part of the Initiative, the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) support basic research in engineering biology through individual grants and through interdisciplinary research centers;

(2) support research on the environmental, legal, and social implications of engineering biology;

(3) provide support for research instrumentation for engineering biology disciplines, including support for research, development, optimization and validation of novel technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ;

(4) support curriculum development and research experiences for secondary, undergraduate, and graduate students in engineering biology and biomanufacturing; and

(5) award grants, on a competitive basis, to enable institutions to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who perform some of their engineering biology research in an industry setting.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**—As part of the Initiative, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) establish a bioscience research program to advance the development of standard reference materials and measurements and to create new data tools, techniques, and processes necessary to advance engineering biology and biomanufacturing;

(2) provide access to user facilities with advanced or unique equipment, services, materials, and other resources to industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to perform research and testing; and

(3) provide technical expertise to inform the potential development of guidelines or safeguards for new products, processes, and systems of engineering biology.

(c) **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.**—As part of the Initiative, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) conduct and support research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in engineering biology, including in the areas of synthetic biology, advanced biofuel development, biobased materials, and environmental remediation;

(2) support the development, optimization and validation of novel, scalable tools and technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ; and

(3) provide access to user facilities with advanced or unique equipment, services, materials, and other resources, as appropriate, to industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to perform research and testing.

(d) **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.**—As part of the Initiative, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall—

(1) conduct and support basic and applied research in engineering biology, including in synthetic biology, and related to Earth and space sciences, aeronautics, space technology, and space exploration and experimentation, consistent with the priorities established in the National Academies’ decadal surveys; and

(2) award grants, on a competitive basis, that enable institutions to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who perform some of their engineering biology research in an industry setting.

(e) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.**—As part of the Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency shall support research on how products, processes, and systems of engineering biology will affect or can protect the environment.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON 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 materials on H.R. 4373, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this legislation.

The term “engineering biology” means the application of engineering

design, principles, and practices to biological systems to advance fundamental understanding of complex natural systems and to enable novel functions and capabilities.

Engineering biology research is used in microbes and plants to grow food more resilient to climate change, reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, and make more effective drugs to treat human diseases. Some researchers are even engineering microbes for environmental cleanup. These are some of our Nation's and world's greatest challenges, and engineering biology is one of our greatest tools.

The economy of the 21st century will be driven by the bioeconomy. Other countries are making significant investments in engineering biology research and development. We must recognize that U.S. leadership is not just about growing our economy and ensuring that our Nation benefits from the products of engineering biology; it is also about leading responsibly.

As China accelerates its own investments and the tools of engineering biology are increasingly cheap and accessible to individuals everywhere, we must also be mindful of the security implications. The potential for misuse of this technology to cause harm makes more urgent our need to invest strategically in engineering biology research today.

Along with authorizing a Federal engineering biology research initiative, this bill would also establish a framework for greater coordination of Federal investments in engineering biology; require a national strategy for those investments; expand public-private partnerships; focus on the education and training for the next generation of engineering biology researchers; and address any potential ethical, security, and societal issues associated with engineering biology research.

It is past time for the United States to recognize the significance of this emerging research area to our economic and national security.

I was disappointed by the lack of such recognition in this administration's last budget request but hopeful to see the tide turning with the convening of a recent White House summit on the bioeconomy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with the administration to ensure that the United States will not lose its leadership position in this area.

H.R. 4373 is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019.

I was proud to join Chairwoman JOHNSON, as well as Representatives JIM SENSENBRENNER and ZOE LOFGREN, in introducing this bill.

The U.S. was a key driver in biological innovation in the 20th century, but there is increasing global competition. Other countries recognize the benefits of biotech technology and are striving to capture its potential through new investments and friendly regulations.

H.R. 4373 promotes a national research strategy around engineering biology to ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in biology and biotechnology.

New gene editing techniques like CRISPR and the advancement of rapid gene sequencing are driving innovation in agriculture, medicine, energy, and manufacturing. We must keep pace and set a research and regulatory framework that supports innovation and creates a marketplace for new ideas and projects, while setting the safety and ethical standards for the world to follow.

H.R. 4373 establishes a national engineering biology research and development initiative to provide interagency research coordination and develop a 3-year strategic plan.

The bill also authorizes research at the agencies under the Science Committee's jurisdiction, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy.

Last month, the White House convened a summit with the Nation's foremost bioeconomy leaders from industry, academia, and government to discuss how to maintain America's leadership in biology for our economic and national security. I hope that summit, along with this legislation, will build momentum for a serious national public-private effort to advance and protect the U.S. bioeconomy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan bill.

I would note to the chairwoman that I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and if the gentleman is ready to close, then I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In both the Agriculture Committee and the Science Committee, we have discussed biotechnology research and regulation for years, but I can't remember a more exciting or challenging time for the field than today. H.R. 4373 will set a national agenda to advance innovation and help us meet those challenges.

I appreciate the chairwoman and her staff for working with us and the biology stakeholder community to produce a good, bipartisan bill. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I wish to express my appreciation for Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. LOFGREN, and myself, and I have no further requests for time.

I would simply urge the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4373, 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.

SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2051) to provide for Federal coordination of activities supporting sustainable chemistry, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2051

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 "Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Congress recognized the importance and value of sustainable chemistry and the role of the Federal Government in section 114 of the American Innovation and Competitive-ness Act (Public Law 114-329);

(2) sustainable chemistry and materials transformation is a key value contributor to business competitiveness across many industrial and consumer sectors;

(3) companies across hundreds of supply chains critical to the American economy are seeking to reduce costs and open new markets through innovations in manufacturing and materials, and are in need of new innovations in chemistry, including sustainable chemistry;

(4) sustainable chemistry can improve the efficiency with which natural resources are used to meet human needs for chemical products while avoiding environmental harm, reduce or eliminate the emissions of and exposures to hazardous substances, minimize the use of resources, and benefit the economy, people, and the environment; and

(5) a recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO-18-307) found that the Federal Government could play an important role in helping realize the full innovation and market potential of sustainable chemistry technologies, including through a coordinated national effort on sustainable chemistry and standardized tools and definitions to support sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, and commercialization.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL COORDINATING ENTITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall convene an interagency entity (referred to in this Act as the "Entity") under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry, including those described in sections 5 and 6.