Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1326, 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. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1326, the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act is a perfect example of government efficiency. This bill directs the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to share their resources and knowledge to achieve common mission priorities.

DOE and USDA already have a successful track record of collaboration in topics such as the energy-water nexus, invasive species control, wildfire risk mitigation, and biofuels. Through the expanded interagency agreement authorized in this bill, DOE and USDA can tackle additional complex research challenges, such as genomics-based research, rural energy development, and grid modernization.

These joint efforts advance clean energy and agricultural technologies and promote rural economic growth. As global competition intensifies and our adversaries seek to gain an advantage by feeding and clothing the rest of the world, it is vital that we strengthen and preserve this interagency collaboration to keep pace through innovation.

This bill will do exactly that. We have two world-class agencies, DOE and USDA, conducting research, so it only makes sense that we ensure they are both at the table to coordinate on a wide range of topics.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in support of the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act, H.R. 1326.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), again, our former committee chair, for reintroducing this legislation alongside the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), our ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

The Department of Energy and the United States Department of Agriculture have a long and established history of partnering to address multidisciplinary research areas like biomass energy development, sustainable aviation fuels, and various methods for improving clean energy development and deploying that development in rural America.

H.R. 1326 is going to codify and strengthen these cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities between these two departments, the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture. This bill positions these agencies to overcome future international competition challenges while accelerating the production of biofuels, renewable chemical feed stocks, and conversion systems that can support clean energy technologies and, of course, rural economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I join in encouraging my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), our former chairman.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1326, the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act. This bill allows the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to work together to improve how we grow our food, fiber, and fuel in America.

I introduced this bill in the last Congress with the help of the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. LOFGREN. The measure passed with unanimous support through the committee and by voice vote on the House floor.

As a farmer and rancher myself, I am proud to sponsor this bill, which will help us address cross-cutting research challenges that will advance crop science, maximize carbon storage, enhance precision agriculture technologies, and much more.

DOE and USDA already have a successful track record of collaboration to mitigate invasive species, modernize the grid, address the energy-water nexus, develop biofuels, and improve agriculture operations.

DOE has some of our country's most advanced computing capacities, as well as world-class research facilities and a depth of scientific expertise.

These resources can be used to support the work being done by America's farmers and ranchers, ultimately strengthening our agricultural production.

This bill before us today is a smart, bipartisan legislation that codifies the partnership between DOE and USDA, ensuring that they can continue to work together on these interindustry challenges.

I thank Ms. LOFGREN for working with me these past two Congresses on this bill, and I deeply appreciate her support of agricultural research. It is always a pleasure to be on the floor with Ms. STEVENS from Michigan.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests to speak on this bill, and I am prepared to close. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let's make this a reality with H.R. 1326. I urge a ''yes'' vote, and, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, this bill passed the House with unanimous support last Congress. That is because smart, bipartisan legislation rarely faces opposition.

I thank former Science, Space, and Technology Committee chairman, Mr. LUCAS, and Ranking Member LOFGREN for once again leading this effort.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and 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. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1326.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DOE AND NSF INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1350) to provide for Department of Energy and National Science Foundation research and development coordination, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1350

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 ''DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') and the Director of the National Science Foundation (in this section referred to as the ''Director'') shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and National Science Foundation mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Director shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement, as the case may be, shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process, which considers applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director may—

(1) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas, such as—

(A) basic plasma science and engineering, including applications in astrophysics, materials science, fusion science, and accelerator science;

(B) fundamental biological and computational science and engineering, including computational neuroscience and neuromorphic computing, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(C) modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large-scale data analytics, predictive analysis, and advanced computational, storage, and networking capabilities in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to energy and climate;

(D) quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

(E) energy and materials science and engineering, including artificial photosynthesis, plasma, solar fuels, and fusion, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under sections 303 and 307 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18641 and 18645), and section 973 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16313);

(F) advanced manufacturing technologies, including efficient storage systems and alternatives to high-temperature processing, for the purposes of optimizing energy consumption, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 975 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 16315);

(G) microelectronics, including novel chip architectures, memory systems, and interconnects; and

(H) advanced physics, including high energy and particle physics, accelerator research and development, and high performance computational tools, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under section 303 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18641);

(2) promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities;

(3) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, as the Secretary and Director determine necessary; and

(4) organize education, training, and research initiatives relating to STEM education and workforce development, including—

(A) internships, fellowships, and other research or work-based learning opportunities;

(B) educational programming for students at all levels, especially experiential and project-based learning opportunities; and

(C) professional development opportunities for educators and researchers.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Director shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial successes.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. 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. 1350, 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. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1350, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act, which passed the House in the 118th Congress. This bill supports the longstanding partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, allowing these agencies to work on cutting-edge research and technological challenges.

As this body is aware, our adversaries, like the Chinese Communist Party, are quickly closing the gap on innovative technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum information science, and advanced manufacturing.

□ 1515

The CCP's efforts to outspend, outeducate, and outpace the the United States in these critical areas are increasingly concerning and something that we cannot ignore.

This legislation will bolster U.S. leadership on the global stage in emerging technologies, ensuring that our competitors do not eclipse us. Additionally, by authorizing this interagency collaboration, we maximize our investments to maintain our competitive edge.

DOE is our Nation's largest supporter of basic research in physical sciences, while NSF is the backbone of the collaborative research environment between government and academia. Together, these agencies can fuel innovation across multiple disciplines, including physics, quantum information sciences, artificial intelligence, and materials science.

This bill enhances the capabilities of DOE and NSF, leveraging their research and development investments to maximize the impact of taxpayer dollars. By authorizing collaboration between DOE and NSF, we maximize our return on investment and ensure that we remain at the forefront of technological progress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD and the members of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for reintroducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, hopefully, our friends and colleagues in the other Chamber are listening because we are moving once again to pass an incredible piece of legislation, H.R. 1350, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act, that I and Dr. JIM BAIRD have introduced yet again to see it, hopefully, pass in the House, and we eagerly await the Senate to take it up.

Simply put, H.R. 1350 authorizes collaborative research between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation in areas that are essential to our national competitiveness. This legislation will build on the longstanding partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation to leverage the unique investments and expertise in a wide range of fields, including quantum science, artificial intelligence, fusion energy, and, of course, advanced manufacturing.

Alongside these research partnerships, this legislation also authorizes collaborative initiatives in education, training, and development to build a stronger workforce in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Lastly, this legislation promotes secure data and information transfer capabilities between these agencies so that we are not working in silos but are working together in a safe and secure environment to develop a shared, agile data ecosystem.

In August 2024, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute updated its dataset, exposing a dramatic shift in U.S. technology leadership. Once dominant in 60 of the 64 critical technologies, according to this policy institute, the U.S. now leads in just 7. China has surged from 3 to 57 since the start of the century.

This is not to put a wet blanket on our incredible country and our innovation capabilities. We want to be measuring, coordinating, and strategic, and we want to be effective stewards of any taxpayer dollars, which is why this bill is not appropriating any such thing.

We are in a wake-up call moment, but this isn't over. To reclaim our edge, we have to empower our top

science agencies to unite, to collaborate, and to drive the innovation necessary to lead before any of our competitors seek to leave us behind. That is why we have this bill. As the chair said, this has passed the House. Our colleagues in the Senate just need to do their jobs.

This collaboration between NSF and the DOE is not new. In fact, they have an extensive history of joint activities, such as support for the development of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a world-class tool for scientific discovery and astronomy located in Chile. We are proud of that partnership.

A testament to the power of these collaborations, this observatory just reached a major milestone with the installation of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, the LSST, the largest digital camera ever built. This facility will soon be ready to scan the sky for the next 10 years, creating an ultrahigh definition, time-lapsed record of our universe.

The DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act strengthens the legislative foundation of our beloved CHIPS and Science Act, a landmark bill that enables both agencies to foster a more collaborative research environment to maximize their collective impacts for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, this bipartisan legislation falls upon us, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my dear friend and one of my favorite colleagues—if that is okay and germane to say—for his collaboration on this bill. We are both midwesterners. He is an incredibly accomplished academic, veteran, and businessman from an important part of our Nation. I have had the sincere privilege of collaborating on legislation with the gentleman since we were first sworn into Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we are again partnering on H.R. 1350, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill, as I have done in other sessions, so that we can implore the Senate to do their part. We are introducing this bill early in the 119th session. We will pass it through the House and, hopefully, see this become law.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1350, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act, will support U.S. competitiveness in emerging technologies and key economic sectors while leveraging taxpayer dollars, enabling more to be accomplished with fewer resources.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work of my colleagues, Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Department of Energy and National Science Foundation Interagency Research Act, and I thank Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS for working with me on this bipartisan bill.

The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation are vehicles for some of our nation's cutting-edge scientific research. Combined, these agencies tackle the modern challenges of physics, quantum information sciences, Artificial Intelligence, and beyond. However, there is no clear directive for these organizations to work together.

This LegisLation explicitly directs the Secretary of Energy and the Director of the NSF to coordinate their activities to accelerate research and unlock new opportunities.

Operating in a silo is never the best practice when it comes to conducting scientific research, especially as our country looks to maximize the use of Americans' taxpayer dollars AND bolster our science and technology sectors to combat the growing threat of the Chinese Communist Party.

With this bill, the Department of Energy and the NSF can maximize their impact through coordination and leveraging each other's investments in research and development. The United States has earned its reputation as a world leader in scientific research and innovation, and now more than ever, we must reinforce critical partnerships that promote these advancements.

As we face increased competition from Communist China, we must ensure WE lead the world in research and development, including in areas like Artificial Intelligence, so that our country—not Communist China—continues to set the rules of the road.

Thank you again to Congresswoman Stevens for working with me on this commonsense, bipartisan approach that empowers American innovation. This legislation unanimously passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2023, and I hope we see this bill across the finish line this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1350.

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.

DOE AND NASA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH COORDINATION ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1368) to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 1368

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 ''DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as the ''Administrator'') may carry out, as practicable, cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities to support the advancement of Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration mission requirements and priorities. The Secretary and Administrator, in accordance with subsection (e), may make competitive awards to carry out such activities.

(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through memoranda of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreements.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator may carry out the following:

(1) Conduct collaborative research and development activities in a variety of focus areas that may include the following:

(A) Propulsion systems and components, including nuclear thermal and nuclear electric propulsion, radioisotope power systems, thermoelectric generators, advanced nuclear fuels, and heater units.

(B) Modeling and simulation, machine learning, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for mission-related purposes.

(C) Fundamental high energy physics, astrophysics, and cosmology, including the nature of dark energy and dark matter, in accordance with section 305 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18643).

(D) Fundamental earth and environmental sciences, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644) and section 60501 of title 51, United States Code.

(E) Quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, in accordance with sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854).

(F) Radiation health effects, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644).

(G) Ground- and space-based technology necessary for the transmission to the Earth's surface of solar energy collected in space.

(H) Other areas of potential research and development collaboration the Secretary and the Administrator determine important to achieving agency missions and objectives.

(2) Develop methods to accommodate large voluntary data sets on space and aeronautical information on high-performance computing systems with variable quality and scale.

(3) Promote collaboration and data and information sharing between the Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Laboratories, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities.

(4) Support the Administration's access to the Department's research infrastructure and capabilities, as practicable.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable and non-reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and