

S. 3084 AMERICAN INNOVATION  
AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

This bill represents a bicameral, bipartisan agreement between legislation that recently passed the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and nine House Science Committee bills that passed the full House over the last two years, including H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This bill maximizes the nation's investment in basic research. It improves accountability and transparency, reduces administrative burden on researchers, enhances agency oversight, which improves research coordination, and reforms federal science agency programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research.

The investment in basic research helps boost U.S. competitiveness, creates jobs and spurs new business and industries.

First and foremost, the bill helps ensure that research grants funded by the National Science Foundation are in the "national interest."

The House and Senate worked together to find common ground on language that ensures each NSF grant award has scientific merit and is required to serve the national interest through a broader impacts criterion, which supports one of seven goals.

These goals are:

Increasing the economic competitiveness in the United States.

Advancing of the health and welfare of the American public.

Supporting the national defense of the United States.

Enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States.

Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved prekindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved ungraduated STEM education and instruction.

Improving public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology in the United States.

Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.

Each public NSF award announcement must make clear, in non-technical language, how at least one of these goals is met, affirming that the project is worthy of taxpayer support, based on scientific merit and national interest.

The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act preserves the intent of H.R. 3293, the Scientific Research in the National Interest Act, a bill I authored that passed the House earlier this year.

I believe this provision will go a long way towards ensuring the grant-making process at NSF is transparent and accountable to the American public. It also makes permanent and enhances some of the reforms NSF already has underway.

Title I of the bill includes key provisions from House-passed H.R. 5049, the NSF Major Facility Research Reform Act, introduced by Science Committee Oversight Chairman BARRY LOUDERMILK.

It also requires NSF to address concerns about waste and abuse. It improves oversight of large facility construction, increases oversight on the use of rotator personnel, and updates conflict of interest policies.

S. 3084 incorporates a number of provisions to improve research coordination across the federal government in computing, neuroscience, cybersecurity and the physical sciences, specifically radiation biology, fusion energy, and high energy physics.

Most notably, Title I of the bill contains House-passed H.R. 5312, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Act, authored by Science Committee Member DARIN LAHOOD.

The bill updates and improves the inter-agency NITRD program, which coordinates the Federal R&D investment portfolio in unclassified networking, computing, software and cybersecurity.

Additionally, S. 3084 includes other enhancements to federal cybersecurity research and standards.

The bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to study the effectiveness of federal agency information security programs and practices, and the challenges to federal agencies' implementation of NIST standards and guidelines.

Other provisions also are included from H.R. 6066, the Cybersecurity Responsibility and Accountability Act of 2016, introduced by Representative RALPH ABRAHAM, which passed the Science Committee in September.

Title II includes H.R. 1119, the Research and Development Efficiency Act. This House-passed bill sponsored by the Research & Technology Subcommittee Chair BARBARA COMSTOCK helps reduce the regulatory burdens on federally funded researchers, so more time can be spent on research, not redtape.

Title III of the bill improves coordination of STEM education activities across the Federal Government. A well-educated and trained high-tech workforce ensures our future economic prosperity.

This means motivating more American students to study science, math, and engineering so they will want to pursue these careers. The bill authorizes a STEM education advisory panel of outside experts to help guide federal STEM education program decision making and help ensure the best results for the taxpayer investment.

The title also continues the commitment of the STEM Education Act, a law I authored, which makes computer science part of STEM Education. That bill authorizes grants for computer science education research as an integral part of STEM education programs.

Finally, title IV and title V include a number of provisions to improve manufacturing innovation and leveraging the private sector in improved public-private partnerships.

It includes updates to NIST's Manufacturing Extension Program to improve participation and oversight. It promotes entrepreneurship education by expanding NSF's successful Innovation Corps program. And it expands opportunities for science prize competitions by reducing barriers and providing participants with IP protections.

America's future economic strength and national security depends on innovation. Public and private investments in research and development fuel the economy, create jobs and lead to new technologies that benefit Americans' daily lives.

I urge adoption of this pro-science bill that will help America remain the global leader in basic research discovery and technological innovation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF DOUG PETERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE MINNESOTA FARMERS UNION

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2016*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the career of Doug Peterson, who will retire from his position as President of the Minnesota Farmers Union on December 31, 2016. For more than two decades, Doug has served Minnesotans as an elected official and as leader of the state's largest nonprofit representing farmers and their families.

As a member of the Minnesota State Legislature from 1990 to 2002, Representative Peterson protected the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and rural communities. As a fellow legislator, it was an honor to serve with him for eight years and work closely with him on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and later on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. I witnessed firsthand the level of expertise and commitment he brought to his work. It is a privilege to continue to call him a friend and an ally on issues important to Minnesota's families.

Beginning in 2002, Peterson became president of the Minnesota Farmers Union. Few people have had more of a positive and lasting impact on Minnesota agriculture policy. A fierce advocate for Minnesota's family farmers, he has worked tirelessly to shape and promote policies that protect their financial interests. His hard work on behalf of the farming community was most recently acknowledged when he was awarded with the 2016 Distinguished Friend of Extension by the University of Minnesota. His leadership as the head of the Minnesota Farmers Union and work with Extension has advanced family farming and helped ensure that farmers are provided with the tools they need on and off the farm to succeed,

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the distinguished career of Doug Peterson and his tremendous work on behalf of Minnesotans.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD T. GILLESPIE

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Mr. Richard T. Gillespie, an extraordinarily gifted

leader and educator from Loudoun County in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. Mr. Gillespie is retiring from his position as Executive Director at the Mosby Heritage Area Association after over ten years of protecting historic landmarks throughout our great Commonwealth.

Prior to joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association, Mr. Gillespie served the Loudoun community for 30 years as a distinguished educator at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Virginia. During his time with Loudoun Valley High School he was able to shape the lives of countless young men and women.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Gillespie has done both at Loudoun Valley High School and in the wider community to preserve the history of our area will be felt for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Richard T. Gillespie for his unbelievable work teaching and preserving history over the decades, and his unwavering dedication to the people of Loudoun County. It is an honor to represent Mr. Gillespie, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTIAN "CHRIS" J.  
SCHOPPMAYER

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2016*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christian "Chris" J. Schoppmeyer, whose selflessness, generosity, and love for his family improved the lives of those fortunate enough to know him or benefit from his work as a custodian of the public interest.

Born in Queens, New York on January 28, 1957 to Frederick Freyer and Helen Grace (Eisinger) Schoppmeyer, he was raised by his mother Helen and stepfather William Schoppmeyer. A graduate of Unity College in Maine and Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire, Mr. Schoppmeyer began his law enforcement career in 1977 with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. In 1980, he built on his investigations experience by moving to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he enforced laws that protected wildlife and the land that sustains it.

Mr. Schoppmeyer spent the last 21 years of his career as a Special Agent at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enforcing federal marine laws and treaties beginning in 1987. He strengthened his growing reputation as a passionate, principled leader and mentor. Former colleagues tell detailed stories about how he inspired them through his actions to follow in his line of work, and how we went out of his way for those who sought his counsel.

Mr. Schoppmeyer gave back to his profession by being more than just a mentor. The leadership positions he held within the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association are many; Agency President for the NOAA Fisheries Service, Office for Law Enforcement, Founder and President of the New Hampshire chapter, Vice President for Agency Affairs, and Vice President of Program and Development.

For many years, Chris organized fundraiser events for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and the FLEOA Foundation (NLEOMF) by organizing law enforcement appreciation events with the Boston Red Sox organization. Through his efforts, Chris raised thousands of dollars for both organizations. Last July, while he was battling terminal cancer, he organized and planned the Canine Law Enforcement Appreciation night at Fenway Park. This was a major undertaking with many moving parts, but Chris saw it through flawlessly.

Mr. Schoppmeyer gave back to his community by sharing his passion and talents for the outdoors with children. The Newmarket Fishing Derby (cofounder), Newmarket School to Career program (volunteer), and Newmarket Conservation Commission (Chairman) are all marks of his legacy.

The accomplishments and accolades tell a story of excellence across his endeavors. Strafford Rivers Conservationist of the Year; Chevron National Conservation Award, Citizen Volunteer Category; NH Governor Conservationist of the Year; Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Special Agent of The Year; NOAA/NMFS Bronze Award; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Investigative Excellence Award; U.S. Attorney's Office, Connecticut, Certificate of Recognition; Coastal Conservation Association, Conservationist of The Year; New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Award; and NOAA/NMFS Silver Award.

The theme of selflessness that permeated all aspects of his life was on display when he last testified before Congress on July 28, 2015. He endured the stress of being the sole witness for the minority with grace, candor, respect, and clarity without breathing a word of his recent stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis and ongoing treatment. He preferred that the focus be on providing the best defense of his profession and the natural world that he and his colleagues sought to protect every day. With characteristic humility, he described his work and that of his peers in the hearing; "We protect natural resources. We also protect the public that visits these parks."

Nothing was more important to Mr. Schoppmeyer than his family. He loved his wife of 34 years, Terri, deeply. He spoke with beaming pride of his son, Travis, daughter, Erin, and his grandkids, Jakoby and Violet. He was irrevocably dedicated to his mother Helen Schoppmeyer, his Daughter-in-law Carolyn, brother Steven Schoppmeyer and his wife Mary, his sister Susan Gray and her husband Dennis, and his nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Please join me in celebrating Chris Schoppmeyer whose selflessness, devotion to family, and passion for the outdoors left the world a better place when he left it than when he arrived.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 159 OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL

**HON. RANDY HULTGREN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2016*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Boy Scout Troop 159 of the McHenry

County Council in Illinois as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year. Thanks to First United Methodist Church of Woodstock, Troop 159 is one of the oldest continuously chartered troops in the country with thousands of Scouts having belonged to the Troop through the years.

For more than a century, young men in the McHenry County area have had the opportunity to grow in character, physical fitness and civic duty through their time in Scouting. Although our world has changed dramatically since the inception of Troop 159, the skills and virtues needed to live honorably have not. Courage, empathy, resourcefulness and responsibility are timeless. Troop 159 has nurtured these qualities through Scouting and has been a constant source of positive influence on the surrounding communities. We look forward to the Troop's next 100 years of fruitful service.

I salute Troop 159 for their service to our community and to the state of Illinois. To the Scouts, their family and friends that support them, we say thank you and congratulations on your 100th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM  
NORTHUP'S RETIREMENT FROM  
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this time to recognize Jim Northup, who has served our nation for 36 years as an extraordinary leader within the National Park Service and will be hanging up his ranger hat and retiring on January 2, 2017.

My constituents in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and I owe Jim Northup a special debt of gratitude for going beyond the call of duty concerning the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, a small but historically important partnership park that is primarily located in my Congressional District. After its superintendent retired, the park was left without sufficient leadership and there was great concern that it would not get the attention from the NPS that it needed. Jim, who was already the Superintendent of one of the busiest parks in the nation at Shenandoah National Park, took on the additional role of Superintendent of the smaller historical park. He generously gave of his time and energy in working with site managers Amy Bracewell and Karen Beck-Herzog to achieve a number of significant improvements in park planning, operations, community relations, and to accomplish an ambitious celebration of the National Park Service Centennial at the park.

Always ready for a challenge, Northup began his work with the National Park Service in Shenandoah National Park as a seasonal ranger. Over the course of his remarkable career, Jim has worked as an interpretive and protection ranger, a natural resources specialist, a wildland fire and aviation specialist, a chief law enforcement ranger, and for the past 12 years, as a superintendent. His assignments have included work at Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Teton, Guadalupe Mountains and Shenandoah national parks, and Cape Hatteras and Fire Island national seashores, the Buffalo National