

readily ensure that their faculty members are not affiliated with malign foreign talent.

□ 1445

The National Science Foundation affirmed that our amendment, this adjustment, would improve their ability to ensure institutional compliance because people want to follow the law. They need the guardrails, and they need the clarity of the law. So even minor differences in definitions can have large consequences and can make implementation difficult. So we have the chance, and this year we are eager to make this one right and to strengthen the United States and to strengthen our research enterprise.

We have got a good example in this bill of how to address gaps in policy and improve the efficiency of our agencies. In this case our academic stakeholders are the ones who came to us, and they said that we have a problem with a definition in a law that we wrote. So in a bipartisan and in an informed process we worked with these stakeholders, and we worked through the committee, the agency, and certainly the NSF, to fix this issue.

This is how improving efficiency and accountability at our agencies should be handled, with stakeholder consultation and congressional action.

This bipartisan bill passed the 118th Congress. The Senate didn't act, but we are going to encourage them in the 119th to act when we urge all of our colleagues in the House Chamber to support this bill once again.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of my legislation, the United States Research Protection Act. H.R. 1318 is a critical piece of legislation that seeks to protect the future of our Nation's scientific and technological advancement. The stakes could not be higher in this era of rapid global innovation and increasingly complex geopolitical dynamics.

I thank Chairman BABIN for working with me to bring this important bipartisan legislation to the floor quickly. I also thank my colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman STEVENS, for co-leading this bill with me.

I am proud that my very first bill to pass the House will protect crucial research done here in the United States from adversarial foreign actors seeking to exploit our research, talent, and resources for their own gain.

Everyone in this Chamber knows the growing threat from the Chinese Communist Party. This adversary has made no secret of its intentions to surpass the United States in key technological areas, from artificial intelligence to quantum computing to biotechnology.

In 2022, Congress passed the Research and Development, Competition, and In-

novation Act as part of the CHIPS and Science Act. That bill prohibited researchers who receive Federal funds from participating in malign foreign talent recruitment programs in which foreign countries incentivize or compensate researchers for activities that present a conflict of interest for the researcher or that are otherwise unauthorized.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee has been conducting vigorous oversight of the implementation of the CHIPS Act and has found that complicated and confusing language in the bill was impeding the ability of American researchers and their institutions to protect taxpayer-funded research.

This ambiguity could also allow for loopholes, allowing malign foreign talent recruitment programs in our universities and other research labs to recruit researchers or access sensitive data, effectively funding breakthrough research for the Chinese Communist Party with American taxpayers' dollars.

China's government has embarked on an aggressive strategy to acquire critical American research and intellectual property. We have seen a troubling pattern of intellectual property theft, economic espionage, and illicit influence over academic institutions. These efforts are not just limited to the economic realm. They are a matter of national security.

The United States Research Protection Act updates and clarifies the definition of malign foreign talent recruitment programs to protect our national investments.

If we do not act now, we risk losing the technological edge that has kept our country secure, prosperous, and at the forefront of global innovation.

We have a responsibility to protect American research, safeguard our intellectual property, and ensure that the innovations of today will remain in the hands of those who work to benefit our Nation, not those who seek to undermine it.

By passing this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1318, we are making a strong commitment to future generations of Americans. We are telling them we will not stand idly by as American innovations are put at risk. We are telling the world that the United States will continue to lead in the global technological race, and we will do so on our terms.

I thank Chairman BABIN for his leadership on this issue. He is a thoughtful and dedicated patriot who is making certain that our grandchildren are better off as a result of our efforts today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, my colleague, Mr. KENNEDY for his were very

affirming and wonderful remarks on the importance of this legislation.

I think from what everyone can hear today, we have bipartisan technical improvement legislation that will only strengthen our Nation and our research enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote "yes" on H.R. 1318, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the government needs clear and explicit guidance for our agencies and federally funded researchers. While this body has passed multiple bills to protect American research, unintentional ambiguity has created confusion within the academic research community. H.R. 1318 will eliminate confusion around the implementation of research security requirements and increase protections of our R&D enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this simple and noncontroversial bipartisan legislation, 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. 1318.

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.

COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING AMENDMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1325) to provide for transparent licensing of commercial remote sensing systems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1325

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 "Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60121(c) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "120" and inserting "60".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60126(a)(1)(E) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "120" and inserting "60".

(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—Section 60126(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "section 60122; and" and inserting "paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 60122(b);".

(c) CONDITIONS.—Section 60126(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) all terms, conditions, or restrictions placed on licensees pursuant to section 60122; and".

(d) TIERS.—Section 60126(a)(1) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) a list of all applications submitted and licenses granted in accordance therewith, listed by tier as defined in regulation, as well as the rationale for each tier categorization;”.

(e) SUNSET.—Section 60126 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2020” and inserting “September 30, 2030”.

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. 1325, 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, I rise in support of H.R. 1325, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025.

This bill updates reporting requirements for NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs, giving Congress the ability to monitor how regulations are affecting the expansion and development of the commercial and remote sensing industry.

Remote sensing uses data collected from satellites to produce images of Earth and has become a crucial tool in fields like agriculture, finance, trade, energy, and national security. Commercial remote sensing also provides us with vital information for many important applications. The technology behind it is constantly evolving, and the industry is seeing tremendous growth.

To effectively support and manage remote sensing activities, it is imperative that Congress receives timely and comprehensive reports in order to evaluate the state of the industry and how regulations are affecting this growth.

The Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 established a reporting requirement for the Department of Commerce on the status of commercial remote sensing licensing and regulation. That requirement expired in 2020. H.R. 1325 will reinstate this reporting requirement and keep Congress informed of agency actions, their impact on licensees, and the state of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1325 is a no-nonsense, bipartisan bill that will ensure the U.S. remains at the helm of this important field.

I thank the former chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Mr. LUCAS, for introducing this bill and his leadership on this important topic. This bill passed the House by a voice vote in the last two Congresses, and I look forward to working with the Senate to see it finally cross the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this 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 join my colleague and chair, Mr. BABIN, and rise in support of the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025, H.R. 1325. We are very pleased to see this legislation being reintroduced this Congress, and certainly it is coming from the leadership of our former chair of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Mr. FRANK LUCAS, and our ranking member, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN. It is another bipartisan bill.

Commercial remote sensing is a vibrant and growing industry. Data and imagery from commercial remote sensing satellites are used widely in energy, agriculture, disaster monitoring, mapping, and national security applications such as maritime surveillance.

Commercial space-based images provide vital scientific information on the health of our Great Lakes informing policy in my beloved home State of Michigan and across the basin. These images also provide visibility and insight into life-threatening events, such as the before and after observations of the devastating Palisades and Eaton wildfires in southern California.

In 1992, Congress, led by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, authorized the Secretary of Commerce to license and regulate private-sector parties to operate commercial remote sensing space systems. Since that time, the commercial remote sensing industry has changed quite dramatically.

Today, companies from across the world are launching commercial remote sensing systems and selling the data. We must ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of this industry, especially as the Chinese Communist Party is advancing in the remote sensing sector.

As a 2024 report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies plainly put it: “Should any one country dominate the commercial remote sensing market, not only could it gain economic advantages, but it would also control the information narrative about the entire planet, from the environment to natural resources to human conflict.”

So this bill provides Congress the transparency and insight we need to oversee the licensing and regulation of private remote sensing systems. It modifies the timeline for completing licenses to conform with updated regulations. It also requires information to provide Congress with details on licensing related to regulatory changes. Fur-

ther, it extends the requirement for an annual report on commercial remote sensing licenses through 2030.

I am very enthusiastic about this important bipartisan commercial space legislation. It is always a good day in the Chamber when Chair BABIN is talking about commercial space legislation, and it is always a good day when we are doing bipartisan things on behalf of American competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1325, 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), who is our former chairman.

□ 1500

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have to acknowledge this: I can't think of a better set of hands to have the chairmanship of this critically important committee of Science, Space, and Technology in than Chairman BABIN and Ranking Member LOFGREN and my good friend, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) over there. The committee that the chairman presides over represents the future of this great country. I always tell people that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee is not just about yesterday or tomorrow, but it is 5 years, it is 50 years, it is 250 years into the future, and that is just an amazing thing.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 1325, the Commercial Remote Sensing Act. I have introduced this bipartisan legislation in the past two Congresses, and on both occasions, the measures passed the House by voice vote. I reintroduced the bill this Congress along with my colleague and friend, the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. LOFGREN.

It updates the reporting requirements for NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs so that Congress can monitor how regulations are impacting the growth and improvement of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Congress first authorized the licensing and regulation of commercial remote sensing space systems in 1992. Since then, the industry has become a crucial resource in a number of industries including agriculture, finance, trade, and energy.

Remote sensing uses data collected from satellites to produce images of Earth. This imagery and data has a number of important applications. It can allow farmers to improve crop production by more efficiently applying water and fertilizer. It can inform the future commodity prices by actively monitoring weather and crop health.

It can also improve our ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters by instructing flood plain mapping, tornado tracking, and drought monitoring, topics that are all front-of-mind for all Americans, but especially those in my home State of Oklahoma.

Commercial remote sensing can also be helpful in humanitarian relief efforts and monitoring treaty compliance, among other national security and foreign affairs applications.

This technology provides us with critical information for a number of fields. As the industry is constantly evolving and growing, we must make sure that Congress is receiving timely and comprehensive reports to accurately evaluate how regulations are affecting the state of the industry.

The Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 established a reporting requirement from the Department of Commerce on the status of commercial remote sensing licensing and regulation. That requirement expired in 2020.

H.R. 1325 will reinstate the reporting requirement and keep Congress informed of agency actions, their impact on licensees, and the state of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1325 is a simple, bipartisan bill that will help ensure that the United States remains the global leader in the commercial remote sensing industry.

I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for joining me in advancing this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is always a good thing when we have a Lucas bill, and particularly when it is a bipartisan bill, and usually it is. You just heard his remarks in this debate. He has really nailed this one.

H.R. 1325 remains an important and necessary piece of legislation that I am proud to support and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, as I said previously, commercial remote sensing provides us with critical information related to a number of fields important to U.S. competitiveness.

H.R. 1325 will ensure that Congress receives the updates necessary to monitor industry regulations. Updating these reporting requirements will ensure the U.S. remains the global leader in this crucial sector.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, 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. 1325.

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 USDA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1326) to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1326

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 USDA Interagency Research Act".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

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

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

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

(1) Conduct collaborative research over a variety of focus areas, such as the following:

(A) Modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to agriculture and energy, such as life cycle analysis of agricultural or energy systems.

(B) Fundamental agricultural, biological, computational, and environmental science and engineering, including advanced crop science, crop protection, breeding, and biological pest control, in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644).

(C) Integrated natural resources and the energy-water nexus, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 1010 of the Energy Act of 2020 (enacted as division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 16183)).

(D) Advanced biomass, biobased products, and biofuels, including in collaboration with the activities authorized under section 9008(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(b)).

(E) Diverse feedstocks for economically and environmentally sustainable fuels, including aviation and naval fuels.

(F) Colocation of agricultural resources and activities and ecosystem services with diverse energy technologies and resources.

(G) Colocation of agricultural resources and activities with carbon storage and utilization technologies.

(H) Invasive species management to further the work done by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds.

(I) Long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of transformative science and technology solutions in the agriculture and energy sectors, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538).

(J) Grid modernization and grid security.

(K) Rural technology development, including manufacturing, precision agriculture technologies, and mechanization and automation technologies.

(L) Wildfire risks and prevention, including the power sector's role in fire prevention and mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy infrastructure.

(2) Develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale.

(3) Promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, industry partners, and other appropriate entities by providing reliable access to secure data and information that are in compliance with Federal rules and regulations.

(4) Support research infrastructure and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary.

(5) Conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies to accomplish the following:

(A) Improve the efficiency of agriculture operations and processing of agricultural products.

(B) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with such operations and such processing.

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

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, 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 Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry 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 Department of Agriculture.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial successes.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

(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