U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON

SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Full Committee Markup:
H.R. 390, the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations Act
H.R. 3259, the Post Quantum Cybersecurity Standards Act
H.R. 3679, the Small Business Artificial Intelligence Advancement Act
H.R. 3705, the Fog Observations and Geographic Forecasting Act

June 11th, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Babin, and thank you for holding today's markup. First, I would like to commend the chairman for his continued commitment to bipartisanship. Most of the bills are standalone components of bigger packaged bills. I believe this moment calls for a more drastic response from this legislative body to the administration's gutting of the federal research enterprise- and time is of the essence. Every week the Trump administration announces some new assault on America's scientific prowess that robs us of our national strengths and jeopardizes our collective future. I believe I can speak on behalf of my caucus in this committee in saying that we ought to be showing that these efforts are not in keeping with congress's intent. And I believe some of my Republican colleagues would agree with me if asked behind closed doors. Regardless, all of this is not to say that the bills before us today wouldn't make good and necessary laws, they certainly would, I support all of these bills and I look forward to their ultimate passage. It is only my sincerest hope that in this room we can meet the moment to do what is necessary to prevent losing primacy and resign ourselves to spend decades of rebuilding or at minimum signal our joint disapproval.

All of that being said, the first bill is the ACERO act. The existing Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations project is being led by NASA Ames near my district, and is focused on wildland fire response applications. This project is particularly important to me and my colleagues in the California delegation. Fire responses from local, state, and federal agencies are now deploying numerous diverse aerial assets in order to combat wildfires. As you can imagine, with numerous activities in the air, a system is necessary to remotely manage these operations. The ACERO Act defines the goals of this project in law and is a good step to ensuring its long-term sustainability. I thank Mr. Fong, Ms. McClellan, and Mr. Whitesides for their leadership on this bill.

The next bill, sponsored by Ms. Stevens and Ms. Tenney, is the Post Quantum Cybersecurity Standards Act. Cybersecurity is always a race: we have our encryption, our adversaries or criminals come up with new cyberattacks, then we come up with better fortifications. We always have to stay a few steps ahead. A future in which quantum computing is a reality exponentially increases the threat. This bill will promote the timely deployment and adoption of post quantum encryption standards across all high-risk sectors and critical infrastructure.

The Small Business Artificial Intelligence Advancement Act is sponsored by Mr. Collins and Ms. Stevens and would help small businesses incorporate the numerous commercial advantages that AI can provide. Often these companies do not have the capacity to do the challenging work of evaluating AI tools that could boost their operations. This bill would direct NIST to create or identify AI technical standards, best practices, and case studies for small businesses.

The last bill is the Fog Observations and Geographic Forecasting Act that I cosponsored with Chairman Babin. I will speak more about this bill when it is called up.

I look forward to it when we as a committee can consider the bigger packages that these bills will eventually make up. With that I thank the Chairman again, and I yield back.

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