



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON **SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**

Opening Statement

Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Joint Subcommittee Hearing:

Subcommittee on Energy

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

*Return on Unprecedented Investment: An Analysis of the Department of Energy's
Implementation of the IIJA, the IRA, and the CHIPS and Science Act*

May 10, 2023

Good afternoon and thank you to both Chairmen and Ranking Members for holding this joint hearing today.

The Science Committee has the responsibility to oversee our nation's scientific research enterprise. And like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I certainly do not take this responsibility lightly. As I have stated before, good Congressional oversight is simply good governance. The past few years have seen once-in-a-generation, bipartisan investments in our scientific research capabilities, and ensuring that those investments are implemented to the letter of the law is a bipartisan issue. The Energy Act of 2020, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act are all examples of what Congress can do when we work together for the common good. These landmark investments are already leading to numerous exciting new research efforts and scientific infrastructure improvements across the nation, and I look forward to hearing more from our witnesses about the progress being made because of their passage.

The Energy Act of 2020 was a bipartisan and bicameral effort to update and revitalize our nation's innovation policies for advanced clean energy technologies. This was a comprehensive undertaking that included significant guidance for developing the next generation of renewables, fusion, energy storage, advanced nuclear, grid modernization, carbon capture, and many other technologies that will be needed to build our clean energy future as quickly as possible. In the next year, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law followed up on that effort by providing substantial, direct support for a broad portfolio of major clean energy demonstration projects authorized in the Energy Act.

I was also, of course, proud to work with my Science Committee colleagues to pass the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. This landmark legislation has ignited domestic semiconductor manufacturing in so many of our districts, helped untangle supply chains, reaffirmed our economic and scientific place on the world stage, and provided the first-ever comprehensive authorization of DOE's Office of Science, which is the single largest supporter of research in the physical sciences in the country. The CHIPS and Science Act was truly a landmark accomplishment of our Committee, and I remain committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to build off those investments.

Lastly, the Inflation Reduction Act made critical investments to address one of our nation's most pressing issues – the climate crisis. This law is the largest such investment in our nation's history, and is delivering amazing results already, including creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs across the country according to the World Economic Forum. IRA also invested greatly needed resources into modernizing and improving our nation's research infrastructure, particularly at DOE's national laboratories.

Two days ago, I had the honor to visit Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to celebrate and learn more about their monumental achievement of fusion ignition in December. The good news is that the work that this Committee has carried out in recent years has really laid a solid foundation for many more breakthrough achievements in the years ahead. And as Ranking Member of the Committee, I remain committed to working with Chairman Lucas and all of my colleagues to ensure that these laws are having the greatest and most positive impacts possible for our citizens. That said, like many of my colleagues, I am also concerned with how Speaker McCarthy's proposed budget cuts will undermine these critical efforts to shore up U.S. competitiveness and address the climate crisis. So I look forward to our robust conversation today and our ongoing work to oversee all of these vitally important activities.

Thank you and I yield back.