



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

Opening Statement

**Ranking Member Haley Stevens (D-MI)
of the Subcommittee on Research & Technology**

**Joint Subcommittee Hearing:
Subcommittee on Research & Technology
Subcommittee on Energy**

“Pursuing the Golden Age of Innovation: Strategic Priorities in Biotechnology

June 5th, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Obernolte and Chairman Weber, for organizing this hearing. Also thank you to all of our witnesses for providing testimony today. The research performed by our witnesses showcase why this committee needs to fight and protect our federal support for fundamental research and biotechnology.

As many of you know, Michigan is a global powerhouse in manufacturing, especially as we chart the course for advanced manufacturing. We design, prototype, and build things in Michigan. But we also grow things. Michigan is home to over 800,000 agricultural workers representing a thriving agricultural sector. And just like our manufacturing, Michigan’s agriculture is harnessing new technologies to improve efficiency, reduce losses, and pioneer breakthroughs in biomanufacturing, biomaterials, and biotechnology.

This is what makes Michigan, Michigan. For generations, we’ve succeeded by uniting innovation with production. We don’t just invent new ideas, we bring them to life, and we scale them up for the world. Biotechnology is the next frontier of this story in Michigan.

With the right investments, biotechnology can unlock new industries, create high-wage jobs, support rural and agricultural communities, and even help us meet our environmental goals. I’m proud to welcome Dr. Stephen Techtmann of Michigan Technological University—our newest R1 institution—whose work exemplifies how biotechnology can solve modern problems and can uplift regions like Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

If the U.S. wants to lead in the 21st century, we must lead in biotechnology. And we cannot wait, especially as global competitors move fast.

In addition to my role with SST, I also serve on the House Select Committee on China. The CCP has been doubling-down on their investments in biotechnology as a means to further their dominance in this critical technology of the future. They realize that biotechnology is converging with other technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, and is likely to form the basis of the next industrial revolution with a projected global value of approximately \$4 trillion by 2030.

Indicators are starting to show that China is beginning to beat the U.S. in biotech innovation; for example, they currently lead in the number of highly cited biotech-related publications on a country-by-country basis. They spend twice as much as the U.S. government on agricultural research and development. They are also investing heavily in biology-enabled warfare.

When faced with this reality, you think the United States would respond by doubling-down on research investments to support innovation – but the Trump Administration is not doing that.

This past week, the Trump Administration released their proposed budget for our federal agencies – and biotechnology is on the chopping block. For the National Science Foundation, they proposed a \$5.156 billion (57%) cut relative to FY 2024 levels. This includes over \$100 million in cuts directly to biotechnology programs. Even before this budget proposal, they have terminated over \$50 million in obligated research funding at NSF Divisions focused on biological research. The National Institute of Standards and Technology, which performs critical work on biometrology, is estimated to receive a \$325 million cut across the agency.

Now this hearing is supposedly focused on “Strategic Priorities in Biotechnology” – so I’ll start by offering a priority: Let’s agree to properly fund our research agencies to perform this critical biotechnology work and stop letting extreme politics get in the way of science.

If we do not stop the chaos of the Trump Administration – the impacts to our science and technology enterprise will be severe. Just look at Dr. Techtmann’s research to understand what we can lose. He is working on a DARPA-funded project to convert excess plastic waste into high-value products including even food. He is even investigating how to use microbial communities to recover critical minerals from low-grade ores. Innovative biotechnology research across the country like Dr. Techtmann’s is at risk of being lost with this Administration’s chaos and draconian budget proposals.

Michigan, and our nation, deserves leaders who will fight to protect this scientific enterprise and the researchers who diligently work on behalf of the American people. It is not time to run away from China – it is time to double down and invest in U.S. innovation. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will join me in defending this enterprise for the sake of our manufacturers, farmers, and inventors.

Thank you to our witnesses again. I look forward to your testimony. I yield back Mr. Chairman.

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