

STATEMENT ON AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE to S. 141
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Full Committee Markup of: *H.R. 6468, the “Improving Science in Chemical Assessments Act”* and *S. 141, the “Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act”*
July 24, 2018

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is straightforward.

The text of this amendment is drawn from the bipartisan Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act, H.R. 3086. This bill was introduced by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. Perlmutter and I was an original cosponsor. It was also cosponsored by current NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine before he left the House.

This legislation was drafted in a bipartisan fashion with Minority Committee staff involvement, unlike the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute being offered today by Mr. Perlmutter that neither I or my staff saw until negotiations had already been completed.

This bill builds on the Senate-passed space weather legislation that we are marking up today, with some additional improvements. These improvements include strengthening international, commercial, and academic collaboration and research to operations activities; incorporation of the National Academies decadal survey recommendations; and providing for research in behavioral, economic and social sciences for improved national preparedness for space weather events.

In particular, this bill directs the NOAA Administrator to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to establish a Space Weather Government-Industry-University Roundtable to bring the various stakeholders together to facilitate communication and the transfer of knowledge; language that was widely supported by the community. Many groups are supportive of HR 3086, including academia, scientific societies, and the commercial sector.

I'd like to contrast this amendment with the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute noticed this past Saturday. The text of my amendment has been vetted by the outside community for well over a year, versus three days for the ANS. In fact, my staff found out that NOAA legislative affairs had not even been given a copy of the ANS until we reached out to them yesterday afternoon. NOAA is one of the agencies most affected by this bill.

Our Committee held a hearing on space weather in April, where H.R. 3086 was endorsed by the expert witnesses. We've had no hearing on the ANS because we've only just received it. My amendment also more closely resembles Senator Peters' Senate companion bill, which has already received unanimous support in the other body.

All of this suggests that my amendment represents a better and more rigorously thought out policy choice than the ANS noticed this past weekend.

Given the Senate's prior support of S. 141, I think adopting my amendment will also make it more likely that we can actually get a good bill enacted into law, which should be our goal as legislators.

I think we ought to be supporting the best policy in this Committee, and I hope my colleagues will do that today, and support this amendment.

Thank you, and I yield back.