

STATEMENT
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Markup of: *HR. 4377, the “Accelerating American Leadership in Science Act of 2017”*
November 15, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Similar to the previous bill, this legislation would authorize upgrades to Department of Energy user facilities that were recommended by the Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee. These upgrades are critical to U.S. leadership in fundamental science and are important tools for industry and university researchers. These investments could significantly expand the number of users that can access these facilities. On that note, I am encouraged to see the inclusion of explicit authorization levels in the bills we are considering today.

I would like to thank Congressman Foster’s for his work on the Committee in highlighting the value of these user facilities. He is likely the only Member of Congress that can draw on his personal experience in supporting this work. I hope we can continue this bipartisan collaboration to authorize other vital research activities at the Federal science agencies that we oversee.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.