

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Joint Subcommittee Hearing
“NASA Security: Assessing the Agency’s Efforts to Protect Sensitive Information”

June 20, 2014

Good morning. In the interest of saving time, I will be brief so that our distinguished panel of witnesses will have time to present their views.

Civil R&D requires openness, collaboration, and sharing of results to be successful. NASA’s R&D portfolio has benefitted from that culture of openness. But the benefits of that culture of openness, collaboration, and sharing must be balanced with appropriate security limits and protections.

This can be a constructive hearing, especially if we can find ways to enable NASA to strike a reasonable balance between information sharing and the need to safeguard any sensitive information and technologies from inadvertent disclosure.

I look forward to discussing this and other issues with our expert panel, since the issues being addressed today are many of the same challenges that confront the other science agencies under the Committee’s oversight umbrella.

With that, I yield back.