

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on Improving Technology Transfer at Universities, Research Institutes and National
Laboratories**

Chairman Bucshon: Good afternoon, I'd like to welcome everyone to today's hearing, which is being held to review innovative approaches to technology transfer at universities, research institutes and National Laboratories, and to examine a discussion draft of legislation, titled the "Innovative Approaches to Technology Transfer Act of 2013."

In 2012, the Federal Government funded more than \$131 billion in research and development activities. More than half of all basic research conducted at our nation's colleges and universities is funded by the Federal Government.

According to the Association of University Technology Managers, technology transfer is the process by which universities and research institutes transfer scientific findings from one organization to another for the purpose of further development or commercialization.

The Bayh-Dole Act, passed in 1980, changed the incentive structure for universities and research institutes to work with commercial entities, including small businesses, to license and patent technologies. The Small Business Technology Transfer or STTR program was created to provide federal R&D funding for proposals that are developed and executed jointly between a small business and a researcher in a nonprofit research organization. My own state of Indiana has seen 99 STTR awards totaling more than \$26 million. Both Bayh-Dole and the STTR program have helped to create jobs and translate new technologies into the marketplace.

However, while the rate of technology transfer at our nation's universities, research institutes and national laboratories has increased since the passage of the Bayh-Dole Act and the creation of the STTR program, I believe we can do even better.

The draft legislation, which is being developed under the leadership of my colleague from New York, Mr. Collins, will create a program to incentivize research institutions to implement innovative approaches to technology transfer to achieve better outcomes. The legislation would dedicate a portion of STTR program funding to provide grants to research institutions to help facilitate and accelerate the transfer of federally funded research and technology into the marketplace.

We will be hearing today from the co-founder of a growing biotechnology business based in Charlottesville, Virginia that was developed out of federally funded R&D, with the assistance of private foundation technology transfer grant funding. We will also hear from the Assistant Vice President for Research and Associate Director of the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship at Purdue University in my home state of Indiana. And from the Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Office of

Innovation, Technology, and Alliances at the University of California, San Francisco. Our witnesses have first-hand experience in technology transfer and can provide insight into how the proposed grant program could help facilitate better technology transfer outcomes.

I'm looking forward to hearing from our witnesses on their thoughts about the proposed legislation, including any recommendations they have for improvements.

We thank our witnesses for being here today and we look forward to your testimony.

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