

OPENING STATEMENT
The Honorable Ben Quayle (R-AZ), Chairman
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation
H.R. 2463, Border Security Technology Innovation Act of 2011

July 13, 2011

Today our subcommittee will consider H.R. 2463, the Border Security Technology Innovation Act of 2011. This bill was introduced on July 8th and referred to our Subcommittee, as well as the Committee on Homeland Security.

H.R. 1425 authorizes research and development activities of the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security focused on improving the technologies used to protect our border.

From numerous examples in my home state of Arizona, I can say with certainty that the U.S.-Mexico border has many areas that are far from secure. This has huge impacts on my district, state, and the rest of the country. Before we can discuss how to develop a solution to illegal immigration, we need to be able to have our borders secured. Otherwise all discussions are premature; we cannot advance any immigration policy if we do not have a means of monitoring and eliminating illegal border crossings. I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1922, to help assist Customs and Border Protection agents to freely move in federal lands on the border. The Border Security Technology Innovation Act of 2011 we are considering today will also assist these agents by developing cutting edge technologies for them to utilize in the field and in the office.

Today's legislation takes an important step forward in addressing an area of great need: finding new and innovative ways to make all of our country's borders more secure. This is not limited to border crossings on land, but also addresses detection technologies for all sorts of border crossings needed for the entire country. This legislation will also assist in improving the efficiency of legal border crossings, reaping economic benefits for the whole country derived from safe and secure crossings.

I am pleased that Ranking Member Wu has chosen to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I appreciate his support. I look forward to working with him on moving this legislation forward.