

Opening Statement
The Honorable Judy Biggert (R-IL)
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation
Committee on Science and Technology
Supporting Innovation in the 21st Century Economy
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this hearing on supporting innovation in the 21st century economy. As we move forward on reauthorizing the America COMPETES Act, we can always learn new ideas from listening to a broad range of viewpoints, so I welcome that opportunity today.

Likewise, the President should be applauded for taking a committed interest in innovation as he has demonstrated with his *Strategy for American Innovation*, and we welcome you, Mr. Chopra, to this side of the Capitol. However, I am sure you will agree with me, Chairman Wu, that innovation and competitiveness have been at the forefront of this Committee's agenda for as long as we have been Members. We understand its importance and will continue to work towards ensuring that the United States remains the world leader in innovation. It is not only imperative to maintaining our competitive edge, but also to strengthening our economy.

We took some major steps to reinforce up our innovative future with the *2007 America COMPETES Act*, which was a result of recommendations from the *Rising Above the Gathering Storm Report*, the previous Administration's *American Competitiveness Initiative*, and the bipartisan leadership of this Committee. As the Chairman and I have both already mentioned, this hearing is part of that reauthorization process.

We are still waiting to see the benefits of some of the initiatives put into place in *COMPETES*, as well as the return on investment from the more than \$10 billion in stimulus funding for R&D within this Committee's jurisdiction. I hope that, given our current economic climate, we proceed very cautiously with any new initiatives to spur innovation until we know our current investments are worthwhile.

I would like to thank our witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to your testimony. I yield back the balance of my time.