



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Full Committee Markup of:

H.R. 6845, the “Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2022”

H.R. 3952, the “NOAA Chief Scientist Act”

H.R. 7077, the “Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act”

H.R. 3588, the “Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act”

H.R. 6933, the “Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022”

April 5, 2022

Good morning everyone, I’m glad to begin this markup of five bipartisan bills.

Today we will consider H.R. 6845, the *Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2022*; H.R. 3952, the *NOAA Chief Scientist Act*; H.R. 7077, the *Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act*; H.R. 3588, the *Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act*; and H.R. 6933, the *Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022*.

Ranking Member Lucas and Mr. Perlmutter’s H.R. 6845, the *Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2022*, will help to bring more transparency in our U.S. commercial space remote licensing process. This bill will allow for this Committee and Congress to carry out it’s critical oversight function of the U.S. commercial remote sensing industry and will build transparency in the licensing of these systems.

Up next is H.R. 3952, the *NOAA Chief Scientist Act*. This legislation was introduced by Chairwoman Mikie Sherrill of the Subcommittee on Environment and Research and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member Randy Feenstra. This bill will help shape a strong Chief Scientist position at NOAA, and emphasizes the importance of upholding scientific integrity. The bill also establishes both an Office of the Chief Scientist and the position of Deputy Chief Scientist. As a Members of this Committee, we understand how critically important it is to uphold scientific integrity, especially at our federal science facilities.

Third we will consider H.R. 7077, the *Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act*, which was sponsored by Representative Ritchie Torres of New York. This bipartisan bill will authorize the U.S. Fire Administration to conduct investigations of major fires on-site. We must be able to learn from tragic events like fires so we can work to make sure they don’t happen again, and this bill will help to do just that.

Next will be H.R. 3588, the *Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act*. This bill was brought forth by Representatives Houlihan and Baird to coordinate Federal research and development efforts to help scale up and modernize STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling. In order to build a strong and diverse STEM workforce, we have to ensure students are well-equipped with the evolving needs of the future.

The last bill we will consider today is H.R. 6933, the *Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022*. This bill, which was introduced by Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Ranking Member Obernolte and Chairman Foster, will ensure Congress stays up to date on information regarding changes in cost-share requirements at the Department of Energy.

I'm confident we have a productive markup in front of us. From upholding scientific integrity at NOAA, making sure we learn from major fires and work to prevent them, improving access to high-quality STEM education, and more, we have five great bills to consider. I'm looking forward to moving each of these bills through the Committee today.

Thank you.