

FLOOR STATEMENT
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Introduction of the
H.R. 3681, the “*ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2017*”

Today I am very pleased to introduce the bipartisan ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2017.

Even though the agency is still relatively young, ARPA-E has already demonstrated incredible success in advancing high-risk, high-reward energy technology solutions that neither the public nor the private sector had been willing or able to support in the past. This was highlighted in a Congressionally mandated National Academies review of the agency released in June. Industry leaders like Norm Augustine and Bill Gates have repeatedly called for tripling this agency’s budget given the unique role that it is now playing in our energy innovation pipeline.

ARPA-E’s impressive track record includes over \$1.8 billion in private sector follow-on funding for a group of 74 ARPA-E projects since the agency’s founding in 2009. Equally notable, 56 projects have formed new companies and 68 projects have shown enough promise to result in partnerships with other government agencies for further development. And I’d be remiss if I didn’t refer my colleagues to DOE Secretary Perry’s March 8th tweet which states, and I quote, “Innovators like the ones supported by our ARPA-E program are key to advancing America’s energy economy.” I couldn’t have said this better myself.

The ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2017 authorizes reasonable growth in funding for ARPA-E through 2022. Increased funding for ARPA-E is consistent with the strong and sustained recommendations of many respected industrial and academic institutions and organizations in recent years. The bill also includes a provision which ensures that sensitive proprietary business information collected by ARPA-E remains protected, which will enable even greater private sector engagement in its programs.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including Mr. Costello, Ms. Kaptur, and Ms. Love, for joining me in introducing this bill, and I hope that all Members will consider supporting this critical investment in our nation’s clean energy future.