



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

Opening Statement

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

Conference Kickoff Meeting
May 12, 2022

It is an honor to be part this Conference Committee, and I thank Chair Johnson and Speaker Pelosi for their leadership.

Through the Bipartisan Innovation Act, we can and will reinvigorate our scientific enterprise, invest in American workers, uplift clean energy research and development, and restore U.S. leadership in domestic manufacturing.

As the Representative of the “silicon forest” in NW Oregon, I strongly support bringing the semiconductor supply chain onshore. By passing \$52 billion in funding for semiconductor manufacturing and R&D, we will move this important goal forward.

Wherever possible, I encourage my colleagues to remember the inextricable link between U.S. competitiveness and climate change. The House-passed version of this bill, the Competes Act, includes many important climate provisions I’ve worked on as a member of the Science Committee. This includes the Regional Clean Energy Innovation Program, modeled in part after legislation I introduced to help cutting-edge clean technologies achieve commercialization by leveraging regional capabilities and markets.

The House-passed version also includes three bipartisan bills I introduced in the House - the Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act, COAST Research Act, and BLUE GLOBE Act. These bills will strengthen coastal acidification research and monitoring, expand efforts to map and conserve blue carbon ecosystems, and enhance ocean data collection. Thank you to Senators

Murkowski and Whitehouse for their motion to instruct on these three bills, which will bolster the blue economy, and for their leadership as my Oceans Caucus counterparts.

I also urge this Conference Committee to include the House-passed National Apprenticeship Act in our final bill. This legislation will create about one million new registered apprenticeships, a powerful tool to improve career pathways and transform the lives of working Americans. Strengthening our nation's workforce is paramount to competing on the global stage.

We have difficult conversations ahead, but I know we agree more than we disagree, and I'm committed to working with everyone in this room to get this important legislation across the finish line and help the people we're all honored to represent. I look forward to working with members of this Conference Committee to advance competitiveness legislation that uplifts American workers, addresses climate change, and puts the U.S. at the forefront of innovation and manufacturing. Thank you.