



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

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## Opening Statement

**Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)**

Conference Kickoff Meeting  
May 12, 2022

I want to thank the House and Senate leadership as well as our respective committees for getting us to this milestone.

The investments contained in the America COMPETES Act could hardly be more urgent. This bill will increase domestic manufacturing, invest in research and innovation, strengthen our supply chains, lower prices for all, and create good-paying jobs in America. This is good for the economy and good for working families.

The House Science Committee divisions of the COMPETES Act include multiple bipartisan innovation bills. The proposals offer a strategic and sustainable plan to grow American science, innovation, and technology, and include incentives to encourage domestic manufacturing of critical technologies.

However, this ambitious agenda is incomplete without the adequate numbers of scientists and engineers necessary to preserve our global leadership for generations to come.

Our human capital gap is one of the most vulnerable parts of our supply chain. But provisions in the COMPETES Act would address this. While increasing STEM scholarships for U.S. students, the bill simultaneously draws the world's best and brightest STEM doctoral recipients and company founders to the United States. And there are articles from the *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes* celebrating this provision of the bills, and I would, at the appropriate time, ask unanimous consent to make them part of the record.

This is a matter of national security. Businesses and individuals will not wait for Congress to act. They will look towards our global competitors who have already jumpstarted innovation and economic growth to make themselves more desirable destinations for international talent and investment.

Inaction is not an option. As conferees, we have a responsibility to ensure that the policies and investments reflected in the final package are aligned with our nation's long-term interests.

I am optimistic that we can work together to accomplish that.