

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI), Ranking Member**  
**Subcommittee on Research and Science Education**

*National Science Foundation Reauthorization*

U.S. House of Representatives

April 14, 2010

I am pleased to participate in the Research and Science Education Subcommittee's markup of the reauthorization of the National Science Foundation (NSF). This Committee Print will be an important piece of the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act.

It is challenging to find large areas at the Foundation in need of great improvement. This is an agency known for its responsible budgeting and respected for its merit-review and evaluation processes. Overall, I believe the bill we are considering today further strengthens the National Science Foundation and improves our nation's ability to compete globally.

However, I have a few reservations about some of the provisions we are considering today. Many of my colleagues are concerned that the authorized levels of funding for the NSF may be excessively high in light of our current economic situation, as well as the recent infusion of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I think that we can all agree that the NSF will function most effectively if we continue it on a strong doubling path that is also sustainable. I am hopeful that we can work together to find common ground on this issue and others that may raise questions about the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the NSF.

I want to recognize and thank the majority staff for working closely with the minority staff on many of the provisions included in the Committee Print, as well as incorporating a variety of expertise from the NSF stakeholder community. I look forward to continued collaborations as we improve and refine the Committee Print before us today.