

OPENING STATEMENT
The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX), Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Full Committee Mark-Up:

- **H.R. 3834**, *Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2012*
- **H.R. 3199**, *to provide a Comprehensive assessment of the scientific and Technical Research on the Implications of the Use of Mid-level Ethanol Blends*

February 7, 2012

I am pleased to call the markup this morning for consideration of H.R. 3834, *Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2012*, and H.R. 3199, a bill to provide a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and technical research on the implications of the use of mid-level ethanol blends.

With very few alterations, H.R. 3834 is essentially the same bill that we passed twice in the last Congress, only to see it languish in the Senate. Hopefully, the third time will be the charm.

I would like to point out that our efforts on this bill have been a true illustration of the bipartisan work for which this Committee and this Congress is capable. Mrs. Johnson, it is my understanding that our staffs have worked well together to ensure this measure reflects good policy for our nation's networking and information technology research and development (R&D) program, and I want to thank you for your work on this bill.

Additionally, I would also like to thank Chairman Brooks, as Chairman of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, for his leadership on this bill and Mrs. Biggert for her many years of championing this issue.

The NITRD program is a product of the High Performance Computing Act of 1991 and represents the Federal government's main R&D investment portfolio for unclassified networking, computing, software, cybersecurity, and related information technologies. It serves as the mechanism for interagency coordination of this R&D.

The bill before us today simply updates the underlying High-Performance Computing statute that's been in place for 20 years and codifies some work the NITRD National Coordination Office already undertakes. Incidentally, the NITRD program is celebrating this 20-year milestone next week, and we applaud them for that success.

Networking and information technology (NIT) includes a broad range of technologies from smart phones to cloud computing. NIT innovations stem from numerous disciplines and have led to advances in search-and-rescue robots; unmanned aerial vehicles; digital libraries; devices for assisted living; and computer-based education and training. R&D in this field seeks to minimize and prevent disruptions to critical infrastructures like power grids and emergency communication systems.

Another key emphasis of the NITRD program is cybersecurity. Mrs. Johnson and I both believe this is a critically important aspect of this program. I am pleased that this will be the second cybersecurity-related legislation this Committee is reporting.

Most importantly, networking and information technology supports and boosts U.S. competitiveness, enhances national security, and helps strengthen the economy through the creation of NIT jobs. This bill helps address that.

The other bill we will be marking up today is H.R. 3199, introduced by Vice-Chairman Sensenbrenner. This bipartisan legislation would prevent damage to the vehicles and engines owned by hundreds of millions of Americans by requiring a more vigorous assessment of the state of the science on mid-level ethanol blends. Specifically, the bill requires the EPA to contract with the National Academies to undertake a thorough review of current science to ensure that any EPA action to increase ethanol in gasoline will not result in widespread misfueling or engine damage.

I appreciate Mr. Sensenbrenner's work on this legislation, including his outreach that showed grave warranty concerns among all major automobile, boat, and engine manufacturers. This is a good bill that does not oppose biofuels, but simply makes certain that we get the science right before moving ahead on this important decision.

I hope it will share the same broad bipartisan support as H.R. 3834.