



COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**  
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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## **Statement by Vice Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.)**

*Markup of H.R. 5906*

**Chairman Weber:** Thank you, Chairman Smith, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this important legislation.

The ARPA-E Act of 2018 requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to refocus ARPA-E towards developing transformative science and technology solutions to address energy, environment, economic and national security challenges.

ARPA-E was created to ensure the U.S. energy sector maintained a competitive in developing emerging energy technologies. The program was established to help develop “high-potential, high-impact energy technologies” that were too early stage to attract private sector investment.

ARPA-E was designed to provide finite research and development funding for a limited time, with the intention to have quick, notable impact on the development of new energy technologies. In order to accomplish this goal, ARPA-E was given a unique management structure, with flexibility start and stop research projects that are no longer achieving individual goals, expedited hiring and firing authority to make sure ARPA-E staff could adequately select and support projects, and the tools to identify market challenges that could affect the advancement in project technologies.

However, there are a number of issues that have made ARPA-E controversial over the years. The first is the worry this is just more of the same from the Department of Energy. After all, with the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program funded at over \$2.3 billion, why did we need another clean energy program?

Second, we’ve heard concerns over the years that ARPA-E wasn’t meeting its intended goal—to fund the kind of technologies that are so innovative they would never attract private sector investment—but was instead providing funding to big companies with access to market capital, or funding research that was already underway in other federal agencies, or in the private sector.

I believe that while these are valid concerns, ARPA-E is a program that can and has had tremendous impact on the development of new energy technologies. Over ten years after its establishment, the bill we will consider today will both address these concerns, and enable ARPA-E to apply its innovative approach to a broader set of technology challenges.

This legislation will expand the mission of ARPA-E to include the full DOE mission, and empower the agency to promote science and technology driven solutions to DOE's broad mission goals.

Following the mission of the department, the ARPA-E Act of 2018 will allow the agency to solve big challenges, like nuclear waste management and clean-up, reducing the environmental impact of energy production, and improving the reliability, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

The bill also provides the secretary with the flexibility to identify additional challenges for ARPA-E to address within the core mission of the department.

The ARPA-E Act also takes important steps to prevent the duplication of research across DOE and to require applicants to indicate that they have attempted to find private sector financing for a particular technology.

This good governance provision ensures limited taxpayer dollars are spent on the most innovative and transformative technologies, not in competition with the private sector.

With the right mission goals and management, I believe ARPA-E's innovative approach can build on the basic science and early-stage research at the department, and help fast track new technologies that will grow our economy.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman Smith for supporting this important legislation. I also want to thank Ranking Member Johnson for cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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