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The America Competes Act and Science Policy

Congress should assess America Competes from the perspective of what constitutes a healthy national science policy. This policy has had and must continue to have two purposes: ensuring that the nation has *good science*; and ensuring that the nation has *science that does good*.

The design and execution of good science—the highest quality possible—is necessarily a task of the scientific community; only it has the requisite expertise to identify the best scientists and the right research protocols.

Assuring that the nation's science does good is necessarily a task that occurs beyond the sphere of science itself; only the government and private actors, for-profit and non-profit, have the requisite broad experience to articulate how science can best be used for social good.

While both purposes are represented in America Competes, shifting decisions historically assigned to the National Science Board to the congressional authorization powers is a radical change in America's national science policy. It is not a change to be made lightly.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Prewitt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kenneth Prewitt
Director, The Future of Scholarly Knowledge
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