



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

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Committee Markup of the *Electricity Storage Innovation Act*

Chairman Smith: This afternoon, the Science Committee will review legislation to prioritize basic energy research and innovation.

H.R. 5640, the *Electricity Storage Innovation Act*, provides important statutory authority and direction for the Department of Energy's groundbreaking basic research in electricity storage.

Breakthroughs in electricity storage are one of the next frontiers in our energy future. Innovations leading to advanced, next generation batteries could help bring affordable electric and renewable energy to the market without costly subsidies or mandates.

By investing in the basic scientific research that will lead to advanced battery technology, we can enable utilities to store and deliver power produced elsewhere on demand. This will allow us to take advantage of energy from all our diverse natural resources.

As the nation's lead federal agency for basic research in the physical sciences, the Department of Energy's Office of Science is the ideal leader for this fundamental scientific research.

H.R. 5640 authorizes the Secretary of Energy to carry out a basic research initiative in the chemical and materials science necessary for advanced electricity storage systems, including multivalent systems, mesoscale electrochemistry, and high-performance computational modeling and simulation.

This legislation also provides the necessary statutory direction and accountability for translational research in electricity storage.

H.R. 5640 focuses the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) on early stage research that will not be undertaken by the private sector.

H.R. 5640 also clearly outlines the federal government's role in research and development by prohibiting the use of these program funds for the commercial application of energy technology.

The transformative breakthroughs in energy science achieved by researchers at our national labs will enable and empower the private sector to develop innovative energy technologies. The private sector is best suited to bring new technology to the energy market.

By directing DOE to conduct this research using existing funds in the Office of Science and EERE, this legislation ensures the responsible use of limited tax dollars for basic research.

Basic scientific research – like the work authorized in the *Electricity Storage Innovation Act* – requires a long-term commitment. While this groundbreaking science can eventually support the development of new advanced energy technologies by the private sector, Congress must ensure limited federal dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

Federal research and development can build the foundation for the next major scientific breakthrough. As we shape the future of the Department of Energy, we must prioritize basic energy science and research that only the federal government has the resources and mission to pursue.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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