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BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

House of Representatives,

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,

Washington, D.C.

Committee Hearings

of the

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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4 | BUSINESS MEETING

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6 | House of Representatives,

7 | Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,

8 | Washington, D.C.

9 | The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:08 a.m., in
10 | Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lamar
11 | Smith [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

12 Chairman SMITH. Good morning. The Science, Space, and
13 Technology Committee will come to order.

14 In pursuant to notice, the Committee meets today to
15 merge the Research and Technology Subcommittees into a new
16 Subcommittee on Research and Technology. We will also adopt
17 revised subcommittee rosters that reflect this merger and
18 seat the Committee's newest members, Democrat Robin Kelly of
19 Illinois and Republican Chris Collins of New York, on
20 subcommittees.

21 After any discussion and debate, we will vote on the
22 three items that have been noticed; first, on the amendment
23 to Committee Rule 6(b) to merge the Subcommittees and then to
24 adopt the amended Majority Subcommittee Roster; and finally,
25 to adopt the amended Minority Subcommittee Roster.

26 Immediately after we conclude this business meeting and
27 adjourn, we will reconvene for the full committee hearing on
28 the Department of Energy Science and Technology Priorities
29 with testimony from Secretary Moniz.

30 The amendment that I am offering to Committee Rule 6(b)
31 combines the Research and Technology Subcommittees into one
32 Subcommittee on Research and Technology. The merger will
33 decrease the number of subcommittees from six to five. Doing
34 so will help the Science Committee operate more effectively
35 and efficiently and save costs.

36 Since 2010, the Science Committee's budget has been cut

37 | by over 26 percent. This year alone, our budget, like the
38 | budgets of other Committees, was reduced by about 12 percent.

39 | In the current budget environment, everyone is forced to
40 | tighten their belts and do more with less, and the Science
41 | Committee is no exception. By reducing the number of
42 | subcommittees, the Committee will be able to streamline its
43 | operations.

44 | This merger decreases the Science Committee's cost but
45 | does not decrease its jurisdiction. The merged subcommittee
46 | will exercise the full combined jurisdiction that the two
47 | separate subcommittees previously possessed. The new
48 | subcommittee will be shared by Congressman Larry Bucshon of
49 | Indiana who was previously Chairman of the Research
50 | Subcommittee.

51 | Congressman Thomas Massie of Kentucky, who previously
52 | chaired the Technology Subcommittee, will serve as a Vice
53 | Chair of the combined subcommittees. After we adopt the
54 | resolution that amends the Committee Rules to restructure the
55 | subcommittees, we will vote to adopt appropriately amended
56 | Republican and Democratic Subcommittee Membership Rosters.

57 | The Republican roster is largely unchanged. All
58 | Republicans who were previously on either the Research or
59 | Technology Subcommittee are now on the combined Research and
60 | Technology Subcommittee. In addition, Congressman Jim
61 | Bridenstine of Oklahoma will fill a vacant slot on the

62 Environment Subcommittee and will now serve as Vice Chair of
63 that subcommittee.

64 The amended Republican roster also places the Science
65 Committee's newest member, Republican Chris Collins of New
66 York, on to the Research and Technology Subcommittee.
67 Congressman Collins graduated from North Carolina State with
68 a degree in mechanical engineering and received his MBA from
69 the University of Alabama. He put both his technical and
70 business education to work in a successful private-sector
71 career for entering public service first as the Erie County
72 executive and now as a Congressman. He keeps a sign in his
73 office that reads, ``In God We Trust; All Others Bring
74 Data.'' No doubt this approach will greatly benefit the
75 Committee.

76 [The information follows:]

77 ***** INSERT 1, 2, 3, 4 *****

78 Chairman SMITH. I now recognize the Ranking Member, the
79 gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Johnson, for her opening remarks.

80 Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just
81 want to take a moment to say that Ms. Lipinski will be
82 Ranking Member of the newly emerged subcommittee, and I also
83 want to thank Ms. Wilson for her very detailed and good work
84 on the Technology Subcommittee who will be moving to the
85 combined committee as one of the leaders, and I want to
86 welcome her continued involvement.

87 I want to take a moment also to recognize our newest
88 Democratic Member, Ms. Robin Kelly, from the 2nd district of
89 Illinois. She has been on the Committee for a couple of
90 weeks but we haven't had a good opportunity to introduce her,
91 and so I am excited about the fact that she will be serving.
92 She has a strong interest in STEM education and energy
93 issues, and so we are excited about having her. And I thank
94 you and yield back.

95 Chairman SMITH. Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

96 We will begin with the adoption of the proposed
97 amendment to Rule 6(b) of the Committee Rules. Copies of the
98 rules are in your folders and copies were previously
99 circulated to each of your offices. Is there any further
100 discussion of the amendment to Rule 6(b)?

101 Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to strike
102 the last word.

103 Chairman SMITH. The gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr.
104 Bridenstine, is recognized for 5 minutes.

105 Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to
106 thank you for yielding and thank you for the opportunity to
107 assume this important new responsibility as the Vice Chairman
108 of the Subcommittee on the Environment.

109 I also want to thank all of those who have personally
110 expressed their best wishes, and of course their offers of
111 assistance and especially their prayers as it relates to
112 those who have been affected by the recent tornado events in
113 my home State of Oklahoma. As terrible and damaging as these
114 tornadoes were, I truly believe they revealed deep flaws and
115 mistaken priorities in our national network of severe weather
116 detection and forecasting.

117 That is why today I am introducing legislation through
118 the Subcommittee on the Environment to ensure that NOAA's
119 first priority is the protection of lives and property from
120 severe weather systems. I am truly honored to say that this
121 legislation has been cosponsored by Chairman Smith, and I
122 appreciate you doing that, Chairman, and Chairman Stewart,
123 and Congressman Andy Harris, who serves on the Commerce,
124 Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee and will be
125 a key partner in accomplishing the goals of this legislation.

126 I know we have a busy day ahead of us, but I just want

127 | to once again express how forward I am looking to serving on
128 | the Subcommittee on the Environment and subordinating myself
129 | to my fellow Air Force pilot, Congressman Chris Stewart.
130 | Sometimes, it is hard for Navy pilots to subordinate
131 | themselves to Air Force pilots, but in this case, it is an
132 | honor because Chris Stewart is a good friend of mine and I am
133 | looking forward to serving with him.

134 | Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

135 | Chairman SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Bridenstine. I
136 | appreciate that.

137 | Any further discussion? If not, the question is on the
138 | adoption of the amendment to Rule 6(b) of the Committee Rules
139 | as proposed.

140 | All those in favor, signify it by saying aye.

141 | Opposed, no.

142 | In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the
143 | amendment to Rule 6(b) of the Committee Rules is adopted.
144 | And without objection, the Motion to Reconsider is laid on
145 | the table.

146 | Before you are rosters updating the ratios and
147 | Subcommittee Chairs and Republican membership of each
148 | Subcommittee. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee
149 | ratify these rosters.

150 | And without objection, so ordered.

151 | I now recognize the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Johnson,

152 | the Ranking Member, to offer a similar Motion.

153 | Ms. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to instructions by
154 | the Democratic Caucus, I ask unanimous consent that the
155 | Democratic rosters found before the Members be approved by
156 | the Committee.

157 | Chairman SMITH. Without objection, so ordered.

158 | And the Committee staff is authorized to make technical
159 | and conforming changes to the rules and rosters adopted by
160 | the Committee here today.

161 | This concludes the Full Committee Business Meeting. We
162 | will reconvene momentarily for the hearing with Secretary
163 | Moniz, but for the moment, the Committee stands adjourned.

164 | [Whereupon, at 10:16 a.m., the Committee proceeded to
165 | other business.]

SPEAKER LISTING

BRIDENSTINE.5	6				
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