

OPENING STATEMENT  
**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Markup of *H.R. 5636: National Institute of Standards and Technology Campus Security Act*  
July 7, 2016

Thank you Chairman Smith.

As we all know, in the past year there have been two somewhat high profile security incidents on NIST campuses. First, in July 2015, a NIST police officer caused a small explosion while he was attempting to make methamphetamine. That officer immediately resigned, was tried and convicted of a felony, and sent to prison.

This year, a man with apparent mental health issues was found trespassing in a NIST facility in Colorado. That man was found in a supposedly secure area. Again, that person was arrested by police and cited.

These incidents raised legitimate concerns and prompted the NIST Director to take several actions to address these concerns, including convening an ad hoc panel of security experts and beginning steps to better secure the Boulder campus.

The incidents have also prompted the Majority to investigate NIST.

Those investigations haven't yielded much useful information, nor any evidence of systemic waste, fraud, or abuse at NIST. Perhaps as a result of that, this past April, Chairman Smith and Chairman Thune of the Senate Commerce Committee jointly requested a GAO study on NIST police and security issues.

That is why it is so odd to see a very similar study requirement in this bill. Given that GAO will surely prioritize the joint Chairs' request, I don't really see the point in requiring this study through legislation.

Moreover, the GAO study may be premature.

The advice that the outside security experts provided to NIST has been digested and the agency is currently implementing changes to address their findings. It might be more useful to review NIST security practices a year from now, rather than in the midst of significant changes.

I also have some minor concerns about the rest of the bill. Part of the bill simply legislates something that NIST and the Department of Commerce are already doing. But the bill also micromanages staffing at the agency in a way that could be counterproductive to the purpose of the bill.

With that, I yield back.

OPENING STATEMENT  
**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Markup of *H.R. 5638: Solar Fuels Innovation Act*  
July 7, 2016

Thank you Chairman Smith, and I want to thank you for holding today's markup.

I welcome the opportunity to do everything we can to advance research in solar fuels. Solar fuel technologies aim to produce fuels like hydrogen and hydrocarbons from a combination of sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide, and do this far more efficiently than nature's photosynthetic process.

If we can figure a way to do this and make it cost-competitive, solar fuels have the potential to make a major contribution to reducing our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels.

However, I wish we would have taken a little more time to make sure we're doing this the right way before going straight to a Full Committee Markup. My staff only saw early draft language of this bill a few weeks ago, and on Tuesday the Department of Energy raised significant concerns with some of the bill language.

I do not believe that the issues the Department has raised are insurmountable, and perhaps some of the amendments offered today will help to address them. But I still believe that these issues could have been avoided if the Committee had proceeded with regular order on this bill.

Having said that, I do support the intent of the bill, and I yield back.

OPENING STATEMENT  
**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Markup of *H.R. 5640: Electricity Storage Innovation Act*  
July 7, 2016

Thank you Chairman Smith.

I strongly support efforts to advance research in electricity storage. Advanced battery technologies can improve the stability of our electric grid and greatly enhance our ability to efficiently use the wide range of clean energy resources that our country is lucky enough to have at our disposal.

Much like the research that is the focus of the Solar Fuels Innovation Act, this research could go a long way to addressing the critical issue of climate change, and so I am generally in support of this effort.

However, as with the Solar Fuels bill, we have skipped regular order in the consideration of this bill, and I think that the bill language has suffered as a result.

As DOE has pointed out, the repeated use of the term “basic research” in this bill is problematic, as there is a clear application in mind for this research: electricity storage. Mr. Takano has an amendment to address this, and I think its adoption would greatly improve the bill.

Nonetheless, I appreciate the Chairman’s efforts to focus attention on this important issue, and I want to thank him for introducing this legislation.

I yield back.