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2 **Authorization and Oversight Plan**
3 **Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**
4 **U.S. House of Representatives**
5 **One Hundred Eighteenth Congress**

6 The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology was first established as the Committee on
7 Science and Astronautics on July 21, 1958, in a direct response to the Soviet Union's 1957
8 launch of Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite. The Committee was created to help the United
9 States foster innovation and stay globally competitive in science and technology. The United
10 States faces a new inflection point, as global competitors seek to surpass the U.S. in research and
11 development (R&D) and emulate the success of our nation's system of innovation. The Science
12 Committee's legislative and oversight efforts in the 118th Congress will all be focused on
13 ensuring the U.S. remains the leader in R&D for our economic prosperity and national security
14 and for the benefit of the next generation of all Americans.

15
16 House Rule X sets forth the legislative jurisdiction of the House Science, Space, and Technology
17 Committee while also assigning broad general oversight responsibilities (Appendix A). Rule X
18 also assigns the Committee special oversight responsibility for "reviewing and studying, on a
19 continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with or involving non-
20 military research and development." This provides the Committee with wide-ranging oversight
21 authority over science and technology issues throughout the government.

22
23 The Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee coordinates and directs oversight activities
24 across the Committee. However, oversight is conducted by every Subcommittee. All components
25 of the Committee take the oversight mandate seriously and work cooperatively to meet the
26 Committee's oversight responsibilities.

27 The following agenda constitutes the authorization and oversight plan of the Committee for the
28 118th Congress. It includes areas which the full committee and subcommittees expect to address
29 new and lapsed authorizations, as well as conduct reviews, oversight, and investigations. The
30 Committee will address additional issues, events, and plans as they arise. The Committee will
31 consult with other committees of the House as necessary.

32 **AUTHORIZATIONS**

33 The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology oversees agency budgets totaling over \$68
34 billion in fiscal year 2023, most of which is focused on research and development (R&D).
35 During the 118th Congress, the Committee will review the authorizations of agencies and
36 programs within its jurisdiction, and specifically with regard to lapsed authorizations, determine
37 whether programs should be reauthorized, reformed, or terminated. Each subcommittee will
38 conduct oversight of the programs and offices within their jurisdiction, including holding
39 hearings and requesting information from the Executive Branch and stakeholders in order to
40 gather the necessary information to support these determinations.

41 The Committee expects to reauthorize key federal science agencies and programs, including the
42 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
43 Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), the Federal Aviation

1 Administration (FAA) space and research, engineering and development programs, the National
2 Quantum Initiative (NQI), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP), and
3 offices within the Department of Energy (DOE).

4 These authorization activities will continue the work of the Committee in the 116th and 117th
5 Congresses to update and reform all of the science agencies and programs in the Committee's
6 jurisdiction. This includes the Energy Act of 2020, which reauthorized many of the applied
7 program offices within DOE, and the Chips and Science Act, which reauthorized the National
8 Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), DOE Office
9 of Science, and NASA.

10 In reauthorizing the agencies within its jurisdiction, the Committee seeks to improve
11 accountability and transparency, secure research from foreign influence and theft, improve
12 research coordination, reform programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research, and
13 ensure constancy and clarity of mission and purpose. Additionally, the Committee will make
14 certain that research across the federal agencies is not unnecessarily duplicative and that taxpayer
15 resources are used in an efficient and effective manner. In all legislation, the Committee will
16 continue to support the government, academic, and industry innovation ecosystem that has made
17 the U.S. research enterprise the most successful in the world.

18 **Energy**

19 The Committee will continue to prioritize basic and fundamental energy research as well as
20 public-private partnerships that move research from lab to market to make our nation's energy
21 sources cleaner, more affordable, and more secure. The Committee also seeks to advance U.S.
22 competitiveness in science and technology by enabling researchers across the country to have
23 access to world-class DOE user facilities, including supercomputers and high intensity light
24 sources.

25 The Committee will review and reauthorize programs or offices within the Department of
26 Energy with lapsed authorizations, as appropriate. The Committee will undertake efforts to
27 conduct a review of and update various expired authorizations of appropriations in the Energy
28 Policy Act of 2005 within the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management and the Office of
29 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The Committee will also undertake efforts to
30 conduct a review of and update various expired authorizations of appropriations in the Energy
31 Independence and Security Act of 2007 for various DOE activities, including energy storage.
32 The Committee will also review and update expired authorizations in the America COMPETES
33 Reauthorization Act of 2010, such as various programs for institutions of higher education.

34 The Committee will undertake efforts to reauthorize and refocus DOE program offices to ensure
35 that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated
36 appropriately and effectively. These include: the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and
37 Emergency Response, the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office, the Bioenergy
38 Technologies Office, and cross-cutting initiatives related to pipeline R&D, drone R&D, and
39 quantum information sciences activities.

40 The Committee will also seek to authorize interagency partnerships between DOE and other
41 federal agencies including NASA, NOAA, NSF and the Department of Agriculture, to leverage
42 the assets of DOE to help address national challenges.

Environment

The Committee will prioritize legislation that promotes innovation to adapt to a changing climate without burdensome regulations, mitigate the effects of severe climate and weather events, improve weather forecasting, and ensure scientific integrity and transparency in the conduct and use of science that underpins government decision-making for environmental protection.

The Committee will pursue passage of a NOAA Organic Act to enshrine the agency in law and establish it as an independent agency. NOAA was created by executive order in 1970 and has never been established in law. An organic act will give NOAA formal statutory authority and authorize its critical mission of protecting life and property. The legislation will also improve accountability and transparency of NOAA's programs and activities.

The Committee will review and reauthorize expiring programs that address weather hazards. This includes programs authorized in the Weather Research and Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017, such as the Tornado Warning Improvement & Extension Program, Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program, the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Program, and the Commercial Data Program. The Committee will also review and reauthorize programs that are set to expire from the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018. Additionally, the Committee intends to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, an interagency research program to improve the understanding of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

Finally, the Committee will consider legislation to address the cross-agency challenge of forecasting, preparing for and mitigating wildfires. The Committee will work with other committees of jurisdiction to improve data collection, dissemination, and coordination of resources to help state and local communities prepare for and fight wildfires.

Research and Technology

The Committee will continue to prioritize legislation that ensures U.S. competitiveness in emerging research and technology, supports a U.S. STEM workforce at all levels of education including a skilled-technical workforce, ensures the transfer of technology from lab to marketplace, protects U.S. research from foreign influence and theft, and improves coordination of research across the government.

In an effort to improve coordination of key technology areas across the government, the Committee will consider legislation to establish a coordinated national initiative to improve the development and deployment of unmanned aerial systems and advanced air mobility. The legislation will improve coordination and avoid duplication of efforts across the federal government and help support a domestic drone industry to end reliance upon Chinese drones.

The Committee will also review, update, and reauthorize as appropriate other key federal technology R&D programs that have lapsed or are due to expire. These programs include the National Quantum Initiative, the National Nanotechnology Initiative, and the Networking and Information Technology Research Program. In updating these programs, the Committee will consider appropriate guardrails to protect this research from foreign influence and theft.

The Committee will also review and reauthorize R&D programs to address natural hazards. In addition to the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program and wildfire legislation, this

1 includes reauthorizing the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant
2 program, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, and the United States Fire
3 Administration (USFA).

4 The Committee will continue its work to improve coordination of science, technology,
5 engineering, mathematics, and cyber (STEM) education activities across the Federal
6 government. The Committee will consider legislation to address the national need for a skilled-
7 technical workforce prepared to support emerging U.S. industries like quantum, advanced
8 semiconductors, and cybersecurity.

9 The Committee will review and consider legislative recommendations to update the Stevenson-
10 Wydler Act, to improve the transfer of technology from government laboratories to the private
11 sector for commercialization.

12 **Space and Aeronautics**

13 The Committee will consider legislation that supports a strong American aerospace industry,
14 continued leadership in human spaceflight, exploration of new frontiers in planetary science,
15 astronomy and astrophysics, the development of novel earth science capabilities, and policies
16 that preserve U.S. leadership in space and aeronautics.

17 The Committee will prioritize a NASA reauthorization bill. The last comprehensive NASA
18 authorization was signed into law in 2017. During the 117th Congress, the CHIPS and Science
19 Act included a narrower section authorizing certain NASA activities, however the language did
20 not include any authorizations of appropriations for any programs. During the 118th Congress,
21 the Committee will engage in a comprehensive review of each directorate at NASA and will
22 develop a comprehensive NASA authorization, including recommended funding levels.

23 The Committee will also consider legislation to support the commercial space sector, including
24 bills that streamline regulations, support commercial remote sensing, improve space situational
25 awareness, and address space launch and reentry activities at the FAA.

26

27 The Committee maintains jurisdiction over the FAA research, engineering, and development
28 (RE&D) programs. As part of the FAA Reauthorization process, the Committee will work with
29 other committees of jurisdiction to consider a FAA RE&D Title that provides congressional
30 direction to FAA's RE&D priorities and advances innovation and safety in the aerospace sector.

31

32 **OVERSIGHT**

33 **Energy**

34 The Committee will review and conduct vigorous oversight of all civilian research, development,
35 demonstration, and commercial application activities conducted by DOE.

36 The Committee will continue to conduct comprehensive oversight of DOE's implementation of
37 the Energy Act of 2020, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the CHIPS and
38 Science Act. The Committee will prioritize oversight of the additional \$45 billion in
39 appropriations DOE received for program funding, infrastructure investments, and loan

1 guarantees, as well as DOE's expanded loan authority. The Committee will examine DOE's
2 contract management practices, including but not limited to potential areas of waste, fraud, and
3 abuse in these practices.

4 The Committee will also conduct oversight of all DOE Office of Science activities with special
5 attention to management of DOE resources to reprioritize federal support for programs within
6 the Office of Science. The Committee will conduct oversight of all federally owned or operated
7 non-military national laboratories, including but not limited to laboratory management, research
8 facilities, research infrastructure, and research priorities. The Committee will also examine the
9 Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management laboratory which requires additional oversight
10 due to its unique government owned, government operated management structure.

11 The Committee will continue to conduct oversight into DOE's research security and
12 cybersecurity practices, to ensure the protection of DOE-funded research and the safety of
13 DOE's national laboratories and user-facilities.

14 **Environment**

15 The Committee will review, and conduct oversight of the broad array of government and private
16 sector programs engaged in environmental research, development, and demonstration. Broadly,
17 the Committee will ensure that existing programs addressing climate change across the Federal
18 government are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly
19 organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste taxpayer resources.

20 *NOAA Activities*

21 The Committee will conduct oversight into NOAA and its programs. A major priority for the
22 Committee will be oversight of Next Generation Satellite Systems. The Committee will continue
23 to review the federal government's development, management, and operation of earth observations
24 satellites at both NOAA and NASA. Previous modernization efforts have resulted in systems
25 plagued with cost overruns, delays, and mismanagement that endanger American lives and
26 property with degraded weather data.

27 The Committee will continue its oversight over management and workforce issues at the
28 National Weather Service (NWS), including issues with recruitment and retention. NWS serves a
29 critical mission of protecting lives and properties, and sound management of its workforce,
30 services, and technology is a critical priority.

31 Severe storms, floods, fires, and hurricanes result in multi-billion-dollar events. The Committee
32 will examine various issues surrounding these extreme weather events, including oversight of the
33 science behind these hazards and how commercial data and solutions are being utilized or
34 coordinated with federal efforts.

35 *EPA Activities*

36 The Committee will review and conduct oversight of EPA's management of science and its use
37 of science in the promulgation of rules and regulations, including lab management, regulatory
38 science, transparency, and risk assessment. In particular, the Committee will examine how to
39 better integrate science into the regulatory decision-making process. This includes how EPA uses

1 and manages scientific data to reach its regulatory conclusions and incidents where principles of
2 scientific and analytical integrity were not met.

3 The Committee will continue its long-standing oversight of the EPA's Integrated Risk
4 Information System (IRIS). IRIS develops toxicological assessments that underpin regulations of
5 toxic chemicals. A 2011 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report found multiple process
6 issues at IRIS, some of which have yet to be addressed.

7 The Committee will work to ensure that EPA is using the best available science in its chemical
8 policy decisions, and that other federal agencies like USDA and DOD are equal and valued
9 participants in an open, transparent process.

10 The EPA has proposed additional methane monitoring, quantification, and mitigation rules for
11 the oil and gas industry. The Committee will review the effectiveness of current leak detection
12 technologies and the need for additional data, research, and development.

13 **Research and Technology**

14 The Committee will continue oversight of all of the Research & Technology agencies and
15 programs in its jurisdiction, including NSF, NIST, the White House Office of Science and
16 Technology, and the CHIPS program. The Committee will also continue its broader oversight
17 over technology issues like artificial intelligence and quantum information sciences and matters
18 that impact the entire civilian R&D sector, including research security, safety and security of the
19 STEM workforce, and public access to scientific publications.

20 *National Science Foundation Activities*

21 The Committee will conduct oversight over the implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act,
22 which reauthorized NSF and created the new directorate for Technology, Innovation, and
23 Partnerships. The Committee will also conduct oversight over NSF's expansion of its research
24 and security programs, including risk-assessment tools and new training requirements.

25 *National Institute of Standards and Technology Activities*

26 The Committee will conduct oversight over the implementation of the reauthorization of NIST,
27 which was included in the CHIPS and Science Act. This will include oversight into how NIST
28 balances its new directives for research activities with its facility needs.

29 The Director of NIST serves as the President's principal advisor on standards and chairs the
30 Interagency Committee on Standards Policy, which advises Federal agencies on standards policy
31 and plays a key role in fostering cooperation between the Federal government, industry, and
32 private sector organizations. The Committee will conduct oversight on how NIST drives federal
33 support of and engagement in industry-led standards development to bolster U.S. standards
34 leadership.

35 The Committee will conduct oversight over NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnerships
36 (MEP) program, its fifty-one centers, and the implementation of programs authorized in the
37 CHIPS and Science Act, including the establishment of a pilot program of expansion awards for
38 MEP centers and the creation of a national supply chain database.

1 NIST coordinates the national network of Manufacturing USA institutes and funds the National
2 Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL). The Committee will
3 conduct oversight on the coordination across Manufacturing USA Institutes and the operation of
4 the Institutes that fall within its jurisdiction.

5 As directed in the National AI Initiative Act, NIST is releasing an AI Risk Management
6 Framework in 2023. The Committee will conduct oversight over the Framework, and its use by
7 the federal government and the private sector.

8 *White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Activities*

9 The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) coordinates federal R&D
10 policy across the federal government. The Committee will conduct oversight over directives to
11 OSTP in the CHIPS and Science Act, including implementation of the National Science and
12 Technology Strategy and Quadrennial Review required in the law. The Committee will also
13 conduct oversight over OSTP's coordination of activities in artificial intelligence, quantum
14 information science, high-performance computing, and climate research.

15 In 2022, OSTP released new guidance on public access to federally funded research, and directed
16 federal research agencies to develop implementation plans to respond to that guidance. The
17 Committee will conduct oversight over the implementation of this guidance to ensure that the
18 process is transparent and encourages all stakeholders to offer input. The Committee will also
19 conduct oversight to ensure that the guidance does not place any undue or unfeasible burden on
20 federal research agencies or awardees.

21 *Research Security Activities*

22 In the 116th and 117th Congress, the Committee passed several new requirements related to
23 research security, including new disclosure requirements, training requirements, and a
24 prohibition on participation in malign foreign talent programs by federally funded researchers.
25 The Committee will conduct oversight over the implementation of these laws by all federal
26 research agencies, examine any gaps in the current laws, and review any unintended
27 consequences from the new requirements.

28 *CHIPS Act Activities*

29 The CHIPS and Science Act authorized and provided \$50 billion in funding to support the
30 reshoring of semiconductor manufacturing and packaging in the United States and research and
31 development activities. NIST, under the Department of Commerce, will be implementing these
32 provisions. Oversight over the management of the programs and the awarding of funds will be a
33 high priority for the Committee.

34 **Space**

35 The Committee will review, and conduct oversight of all activities contemplated and authorized
36 by the *National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958*, as amended, as well as all other laws
37 pertaining to the Committee's jurisdiction over space under Title 51 U.S. Code, and House Rule
38 X.

39

1 *NASA Activities*

2 The Committee will continue its oversight of all NASA activities. The Committee will monitor
3 and review all programs, projects, and activities for cost, schedule, and performance issues as
4 well as for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

5 The Committee will prioritize oversight of the Artemis program to return humans to the Moon
6 and then land on Mars. The Committee will continue to conduct vigorous oversight to ensure
7 NASA stays on track to fulfil its mission to build the systems necessary to return U.S. astronauts
8 to the Moon and land the first humans on Mars.

9 The Committee will also continue to review U.S. cooperation with other government agencies
10 and international partners related to outer space.

11 *Commercial Space*

12 The Committee will continue to review commercial space activities, both public and private.
13 This includes not only NASA’s use of commercial space partnerships, but also the executive
14 branch’s use of existing regulatory authority granted by statute. Furthermore, as agencies seek
15 additional regulatory authority for space activities, the Committee will maintain rigorous
16 oversight of its jurisdiction over “[a]stronautical research and development, including resources,
17 personnel, equipment, and facilities,” and “outer space, including exploration and control
18 thereof” as granted by House Rule X.

19 *FAA Activities*

20 The Committee will review and conduct oversight of all activities within the FAA’s Office of
21 Commercial Space Transportation (AST), which licenses commercial launch and reentry
22 activities, as well as spaceport operations. The Committee will also review and monitor the
23 emergence of several fledgling commercial suborbital space flight ventures.

24 Additionally, the Committee will oversee and review all of the FAA’s RE&D activities to ensure
25 that they lead to improvements in the U.S. aerospace sector, focusing with particular interest on
26 the FAA’s management of its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) program.

27 *National Space Council*

28 The Committee will also conduct oversight into the activities of the National Space Council,
29 including execution of all congressionally mandated activities and reports.

30 **General Oversight**

31 The Committee will conduct an in-depth oversight audit of the programs in its jurisdiction to
32 ensure that its robust and exhaustive oversight efforts continue to be effective. Specifically, the
33 Committee will conduct oversight of inspectors general to ensure that they are actively working
34 to combat waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; while at the same time ensuring that they
35 are properly equipped, funded, and have the authorities necessary to complete their important
36 investigations and audits.

37 The Committee stands ready to work with whistleblowers across the government in its oversight
38 efforts. It will review whistleblower protections applicable to its jurisdiction and consider where
39 expansions of such authorizations may be warranted to better protect those that come forward in

- 1 an effort to make government better. The Committee will combat whistleblower retaliation and
- 2 will keep the anonymity of whistleblowers that provide information to Congress.

Appendix A

House Rule X

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

Committees and their legislative jurisdictions

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause and clauses 2, 3, and 4. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees, in accordance with clause 2 of rule XII, as follows:

(p) Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

(1) All energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.

(2) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

(3) Civil aviation research and development.

(4) Environmental research and development.

(5) Marine research.

(6) Commercial application of energy technology.

(7) National Institute of Standards and Technology, standardization of weights and measures, and the metric system.

(8) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(9) National Space Council.

(10) National Science Foundation.

(11) National Weather Service.

(12) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof.

(13) Science scholarships.

(14) Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.

Special oversight functions

3(k) The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.