

Statement of Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith
Research & Technology Subcommittee Hearing on
Examining Federal Advanced Manufacturing Programs
10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 10, 2013
FINAL - JB

Thank you, Chairman Bucshon, for yielding me time.

Today's hearing will examine how federal advanced manufacturing research and development programs improve American competitiveness. It is critical that we understand how we can best prioritize among these programs.

I am also pleased that we have an opportunity to review Ranking Member Johnson's bill, H.R. 1421, the "Advancing Innovative Manufacturing Act of 2013."

We must foster innovation so that powerful new technologies are developed here and not overseas. And we must ensure that the United States provides the best environment in which to do business.

While I agree with the Ranking Member that advanced manufacturing is critical to future American competitiveness, I have some reservations about her bill.

In particular, I'm concerned about the authorization of new federal manufacturing programs without identifying cuts elsewhere in the budget to pay for them. We cannot continue to spend more taxpayer dollars for advanced manufacturing without finding offsets from other lower priority programs.

As we look to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, I'm hopeful that today's hearing can shed some light on how best to prioritize advanced manufacturing programs at the Institute.

I'm also hopeful that we can identify some common ground for working together across the aisle to improve federal programs to support advanced manufacturing.

Again, I thank the Chairman for holding this hearing, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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