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“FULL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING”

Wednesday, January 23, 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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7 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

8 Washington, D.C.

9 The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:06 a.m., in
10 Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lamar
11 Smith [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

12 Chairman SMITH. The Committee on Science, Space, and
13 Technology will come to order. Pursuant to notice, the
14 Committee meets to organize for the 113th Congress. Today,
15 we will consider committee rules, ratify subcommittee Chairs,
16 subcommittee Ranking Members, and subcommittee membership,
17 and adopt the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 113th
18 Congress.

19 I will now recognize myself for opening remarks.

20 First of all, welcome, everyone, to the first official
21 meeting of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee for
22 the 113th Congress. And thank you all for choosing to serve
23 on this Committee. There is wonderful talent on both sides.

24 ``Where there is no vision, the people perish.'' These
25 words are inscribed on the hearing room wall just behind me.
26 This simple line from the Book of Proverbs is an appropriate
27 message as we begin a new Congress. We must learn from the
28 past, understand the present, and have a vision for the
29 future.

30 We have 19 returning members and 20 new members. I hope
31 that every member will find that this Committee plays an
32 exciting part in the discoveries of science, the exploration
33 of space, and the development of new technologies. The
34 Science, Space, and Technology Committee is one of the newest
35 Committees in Congress. Established in 1958 as the Select

36 Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration, its initial
37 purpose was to oversee the U.S. Space Program after the
38 Soviet Union launch of Sputnik in 1957.

39 One of the Committee's first actions was to enact the
40 law that created NASA. Over nearly 55 years, the
41 jurisdiction of the Committee has expanded to include
42 oversight of multiple agencies. These include NASA, the
43 Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency,
44 the National Science Foundation, the Federal Aviation
45 Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
46 Administration, the National Institute of Standards and
47 Technology, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S.
48 Fire Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey, among
49 others.

50 The Science Committee oversees agency budgets totaling
51 \$39 billion, most of which is focused on research and
52 development. This enables us to invest in the future,
53 sometimes the distant future, and spur innovations, increase
54 America's productivity, and improve our standard of living.
55 It is my hope that we will be considered a bipartisan
56 committee, working together for the best interests of our
57 country.

58 To that end, after consulting with the Ranking Member,
59 the gentlewoman from Texas, we will hold a bipartisan retreat
60 Tuesday, February 5, at 10:00 a.m. here in this room. That

61 | is 2 weeks from yesterday. At the retreat, we will hear from
62 | two guest speakers, discuss possible legislation, evaluate a
63 | list of CODELs, and exchange ideas on any number of issues.

64 | In the 113th Congress, the Committee will have six
65 | subcommittees: Energy; Environment; Oversight; Research;
66 | Space; and Technology. From reauthorizing NASA to advocating
67 | for robust research and development, from highlighting the
68 | latest technological advances to providing thorough oversight
69 | of federal programs, we have much to do.

70 | For us, it is not a clich  to feel that America can
71 | shoot for the stars, reach for the moon, and the sky is the
72 | limit. I look forward to working with you all to promote
73 | legislation that advances America's interests in science,
74 | space, and technology.

75 | I will now recognize and am pleased to recognize the
76 | gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Johnson, the Ranking Member of
77 | the full committee.

78 | [The statement of Mr. Smith follows:]

79 | ***** INSERT 1 *****

80 Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And
81 let me congratulate you, my friend of many years from Texas,
82 and say it is awful good to see the former Chair, Mr. Hall of
83 Texas, here. So having known both of you for many years, I
84 look forward to a good and fair operated committee and look
85 forward to working with every one of you here in this
86 Congress.

87 I am excited about the work we have to do this Congress
88 on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. This really
89 is a unique committee in the House since the work we do is
90 about the future. Investments in research and development
91 are investments in our future and future security, and they
92 can inspire the next generation. Likewise, investments in
93 STEM education are investments in our future competitiveness
94 and ability to innovate. So it is exciting that we on this
95 committee are focused on crafting the policies and priorities
96 that will determine the future health and prosperity of
97 America.

98 I hope all of the members of this committee share our
99 excitement about the work of our committee, and I hope that
100 all of our many new members will take an active role in this
101 committee. The challenges and tasks we had taken on in our
102 committee are historically--have historically been one that
103 we have undertaken in a bipartisan fashion. I hope that that
104 will continue to be the case in the 113th Congress.

105 And I look forward to working with my colleagues on both
106 sides of the aisle as we move forward to ensure that our
107 Nation maintains its competitive economic edge, challenges
108 our young people to excel, continues to create good jobs for
109 all of our citizens in the coming decades.

110 And finally, I would like to thank Chairman Smith for
111 working with us on the new committee rules and his Oversight
112 Plan. I will support their adoption.

113 And with that, I again want to expend my best wishes to
114 Mr. Smith. And before I finish, let me just say that due to
115 surgery in 2010, my vocal cord nerve was damaged, so my voice
116 will be very different if you can hear it at all sometimes.
117 But bear with me. If you bear with me, you will hear it.

118 Thank you and I yield back.

119 [The statement of Ms. Johnson follows:]

120 ***** INSERT 2 *****

121 Chairman SMITH. Thank you, Ms. Johnson. I am sure
122 that, regardless of the volume, we will always listen to what
123 you have to say.

124 Our first item of business is the adoption of the
125 committee rules. Copies of the rules are in your folders and
126 were distributed to all offices last Friday in accordance
127 with the rules notice requirements. These rules also have
128 been reviewed by the House Parliamentarian's Office to ensure
129 their conformity with the official rules and practices of the
130 House. All the changes to the rules have been discussed and
131 negotiated with Ranking Member Johnson and her staff. These
132 rules reflect a bipartisan compromise and set out fair
133 procedures that will help the Committee do its business
134 efficiently and transparently. The rules have been
135 reorganized to limit needless duplication with the rules of
136 the House and to make them clearer.

137 Members should be aware that the Committee's regular
138 meeting will be held on Thursday mornings. Now, this is to
139 avoid scheduling conflicts with many other committees.

140 Also, we will continue the practice of using an
141 amendment roster for committee markups. The rules authorize
142 the Chairman to give priority to amendments submitted 24
143 hours in advance of the markup. These rules provide a strong
144 framework for the Committee's important work in the new
145 Congress.

146 Is there any further discussion or are there any
147 amendments to the rules?

148 If not, the question is on the adoption of the committee
149 rules as reposed.

150 All those in favor, say aye.

151 Opposed, no.

152 In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the
153 committee rules are adopted.

154 [The information follows:]

155 ***** INSERT 3 *****

156 Chairman SMITH. Next, we consider the resolution
157 establishing the subcommittee ratios, subcommittee Chairs,
158 and Republican membership of the subcommittee. I ask
159 unanimous consent that the committee ratify these rosters.

160 And without objection, so ordered.

161 [The information follows:]

162 ***** INSERT 4 *****

163 Chairman SMITH. I now recognize Ms. Johnson to offer a
164 similar motion.

165 Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

166 Pursuant to the instructions by the Democratic Caucus, I
167 ask unanimous consent that the Democratic roster is found
168 before the members be approved by the Committee.

169 Chairman SMITH. And without objection, so ordered.

170 [The information follows:]

171 ***** INSERT 5 *****

172 Chairman SMITH. At this time, we welcome back 13
173 Republican members to the Science, Space, and Technology
174 Committee. They are joined by nine new committee members,
175 whom I would like to introduce. And if you will raise your
176 hand when I introduce you, that way we can sort of see where
177 you are.

178 Steve Stockman of Texas previously served in the 104th
179 Congress from 1995 to 1997. He represents NASA's Johnson
180 Space Center.

181 Bill Posey of Florida in his third term once worked on
182 the Apollo 11 team at Kennedy Space Center, which he now
183 represents. He is also an accomplished stockcar racer.

184 Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming in her third term represents
185 one of our greatest energy-producing States. She holds three
186 degrees from the University of Wyoming and held three
187 statewide offices before coming to Congress.

188 David Schweikert of Arizona in his second term earned
189 two degrees from Arizona State. He served in both the
190 Arizona House and Senate before coming to Congress.

191 Thomas Massie of Kentucky is the founder of a tech
192 company and the holder of 24 patents. As a student at MIT,
193 he won a \$30,000 tech prize and served as a County Judge
194 before his election to Congress.

195 Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, another major
196 energy-producing State, directed two different state agencies

197 | for tourism and economic development before running for
198 | Congress.

199 | Jim Bridenstine of Oklahoma was a triple major at Rice
200 | University while on a swimming scholarship. He served as a
201 | Navy pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan before directing Tulsa's
202 | Air and Space Museum.

203 | Randy Weber of Texas continues to be a successful small
204 | business owner and operator, and he served two terms in the
205 | Texas Legislature.

206 | And Chris Stewart of Utah is a former Air Force pilot
207 | who helped set the record for the fastest nonstop flight
208 | around the world at an average speed of 630 miles per hour.
209 | He has written 14 books, including two New York Times
210 | bestsellers.

211 | I now recognize Ms. Johnson to introduce the new
212 | Democratic members of the committee.

213 | Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

214 | I would like to enthusiastically introduce our new
215 | Democratic members of the committee.

216 | Eric Swalwell from California was a member of the Dublin
217 | City Council during which time he was also a devoted District
218 | Attorney for Alameda County.

219 | Dan Maffei from New York was a Congressman in the 111th
220 | Congress before regaining his seat in the 113th. During this
221 | time he was out office, he worked as a Professor at SUNY

222 College on Environmental Sciences and Forestry and is a
223 Senior Vice President of Pinnacle Capital Management.

224 Alan Grayson from Florida was a Congressman in the 111th
225 Congress before regaining his seat in the 113th. During this
226 time out of office, he was a frequent political commentator.

227 Joseph Kennedy, III, from Massachusetts was an Assistant
228 District Attorney in Massachusetts after he finished his law
229 degree from Harvard University.

230 Scott Peters from California was a member of the San
231 Diego Port Commission before which he was a member of the San
232 Diego City Council.

233 Derek Kilmer from Washington was a member of the
234 Washington State Senate while also serving as a Vice
235 President of the Economic Development Board of Tacoma-Pierce
236 County.

237 Ami Bera from California, a Professor and Associate Dean
238 of Admissions at UC Davis Medical School formerly worked as a
239 Sacramento County Chief Medical Officer.

240 Elizabeth Esty from Connecticut was a member of the
241 Connecticut House of Representatives prior to which she was a
242 Senior Research Scholar at Yale Law School.

243 Mark Veasey, whose district is just down the road
244 adjacent to mine in Texas in the Fort Worth area, was a
245 four-term member of the Texas House of Representatives.

246 Julia Brownley of California was a three-term member of

247 California's State Assembly where she worked closely on
248 investments in the State's schools.

249 And Mark Takano from California was a teacher in the
250 Rialto Unified School District during which time he was also
251 on the Board of Trustees for the Riverside Community College
252 District.

253 I am confident that these members will be very valuable
254 contributors to this committee, and I look forward to working
255 with them this Congress. There is a Democratic Caucus
256 convening at this time and also another committee
257 organization, so some of them have not made it yet.

258 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

259 Chairman SMITH. Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

260 The next item for consideration is the proposed
261 Committee Oversight Plan. And a copy is in your folders.

262 Under House rules, the Committee must meet in open
263 session and adopt the plan before February 15. The
264 Committee's oversight jurisdiction is broad. The proposed
265 Oversight Plan does not limit the Committee's work, nor does
266 it bind the Committee to conduct oversight on every subject
267 it mentions. If no members wish to be recognized, the
268 question is on the adoption of the Committee Oversight Plan
269 as proposed.

270 All those in favor, say aye.

271 Opposed, no.

272 | The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

273 | [The information follows:]

274 | ***** INSERT 6 *****

275 Chairman SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the
276 committee staff, with the consent of the minority committee
277 staff, is authorized to make technical conforming changes to
278 the rules, rosters, and Oversight Plan adopted by the
279 Committee for the duration of the 113th Congress.

280 And without objection, so ordered.

281 Does Ms. Johnson have any concluding remarks before we
282 finish up?

283 Ms. JOHNSON. Not really, but let me just reiterate
284 again that I am delighted that you are going to be our
285 Chairman. I am delighted that we also have the presence of
286 two previous Chairs of this committee. I think--yes, Mr.
287 Sensenbrenner and Mr. Hall. And I am pleased to be on the
288 Committee with you again and I am very delighted to see all
289 of the new members. And I look forward to a busy, busy term,
290 including the member who is just arriving.

291 Chairman SMITH. Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

292 Let me say that I--to the members that I realize this is
293 probably the longest time the Committee will go without
294 numerous requests for recognition by other members, and I
295 appreciate your forbearance today.

296 And if there is no further discussion, this concludes
297 the full committee organizational meeting. Thank you all for
298 your attendance.

299 And the Committee stands adjourned.

300

[Whereupon, at 9:21 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

SPEAKER LISTING

JOHNSON.	5	10	12	16			
SMITH.	2	7	9	10	11	14	16
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