

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Dan Maffei (D-NY)
Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Joint Subcommittee Hearing
Subcommittees on Research & Technology and Oversight
“Technology Needed to Secure America’s Border”
July 31, 2014

Thank you Chairman Broun and Chairman Buschon for holding this hearing today.

I believe we need to get serious and work to secure and strengthen our borders and enforce the laws already on the books. Our current system and approach to immigration is not working and we need comprehensive reform now, which is why I’ve cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would, bolster security at our borders and uphold the immigration laws already on the books. The Senate has already passed this bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill by a wide margin and it is time for the House to act as well. Border security is also about keeping terrorists and weapons of mass destruction from reaching our shores.

For the purposes of this hearing, I look forward to hearing witness testimony on the research, development, and implementation of new technologies on America’s border. It is unfortunate that the Committee was unable to obtain witnesses from the Department of Homeland Security’s Science & Technology (S&T) Directorate or host a joint hearing with the House Homeland Security Committee, as there is much overlap in this issue area.

My District shares a nautical border with Canada, and I would like to know learn more about what is being done to secure the Northern Border, in addition to the Southern Border.

Being able to accurately monitor the integrity of U.S. borders is essential to maintaining border and national security. I look forward to our witnesses helping us to better understand the science behind these issues, and evaluate how technology can augment and support our human resources that are ultimately responsible for maintaining U.S border security.