

- STATEMENT-

Mr. Dan Maffei
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Science, Space & Technology

***“Espionage Threats at Federal Laboratories:
Balancing Scientific Cooperation while Protecting Critical
Information”***

Thursday, May 16, 2013 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., 2318 Rayburn

Thank you Chairman Broun for holding this hearing today.

The challenge at our national labs and other facilities is controlling access to the information and inventions that are truly deemed to be highly sensitive without obstructing the positive interaction that occurs between scientists. Still, as we see on a routine basis, other nations and foreign corporations regularly attempt to steal, siphon or subtly acquire U.S. government secrets or proprietary data that has high technological and scientific value for their economy or national security.

Identifying specific espionage threats, developing safeguards against them and forewarning American scientists about these expanding and evolving threats is an important task. But it is a task that has to be balanced against the costs of overreacting and unnecessarily inhibiting the advance of scientific understanding. This hearing will help illuminate the tradeoffs.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about how to strike the right balance between international scientific cooperation and ensuring the protection of critical key data or research. I hope that our witnesses can offer key recommendations that could be followed by the Federal government as well as inform actions by our Universities and private corporations.

Yield back.