

minds in the private sector who can then commercialize this technology.

Federal R&D is responsible for many of the industries and technologies that now drive our national wealth—the most earth-shattering example, the Internet, developed by government scientists at DARPA.

Federal research spawned the biotech and semiconductor industries; gave us tools like the laser, GPS, and MRI; and, through the World Wide Web and the Internet, has entirely changed the way we find a restaurant, talk to our children, and sell cars.

The role of the private sector in developing technology is vital, and government must lead the way in innovation, providing the patient capital necessary to perform research without any known commercial application or concern for profit.

I am reminded of the fascinating idea that mathematicians who develop things in their heads, in their offices, with no application to anything, so often, within weeks, will find that that mathematical new idea applies to real-life situations.

Einstein marveled at the power of pure mathematics, and he said, “How can it be that mathematics, being after all a product of human thought which is independent of experience, is so admirably appropriate to the objects of reality?”

In 1959, the physicist Eugene Wigner described this problem as “the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics.”

H.R. 1158 helps bring these pieces together, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and technology; and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Thank you, Chairman SMITH, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, before I wrap up on the bill we are debating right now, I just wanted to thank Chairman SMITH for his work on this, along with Ranking Member JOHNSON. Working together, we were able to get these bills done here on the floor tonight.

I know that tomorrow we will have a little bit more of a contentious debate on a bill coming out of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee; but I just wanted to, again, commend the chairman and Ranking Member JOHNSON for our work together on these bills.

We know there are important things that we can get done and we need to get done and will be very helpful to our Nation, and I am glad that we were able to do those things on these bills that we have brought forward here tonight, a good bipartisan mix of bills showing bipartisan cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by asking my colleagues to support H.R. 1158, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act.

I want to thank Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. PERLMUTTER for their work on this bill. I think there are many things that we can't even see right now that will come out of this, but I am certain that our national labs and the great value that they are to our Nation will continue, and this will allow them to continue to not only do their research, but to do an even better job of producing new technologies that will be a great benefit to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1158, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015, enables the Department of Energy (DOE) to better form partnerships with non-federal entities and transfer research to the private sector.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois, Rep. RANDY HULTGREN, for his initiative on this issue, and the gentleman from Colorado, Rep. ED PERLMUTTER, for it cosponsoring this important legislation.

The Department of Energy is the largest federal supporter of basic research and development and sponsors 47 percent of federal basic research in the physical sciences.

The Department's science and energy research is conducted at over 300 sites nationwide. More than 31,000 researchers take advantage of DOE user facilities each year.

This includes the Department's 17 National Labs, which provide the foundation for the Department of Energy's research and development infrastructure.

These labs keep America at the forefront of global technological capabilities. They ensure that we continue to conduct critical research in high energy physics, advanced scientific computing, biological and environmental research, nuclear physics, fusion energy sciences, basic energy sciences, and applied energy research and development in fossil, nuclear and renewable energy.

The innovative early stage research performed at the labs can have great value for the private sector, but often goes unnoticed.

Because of a communication gap between the labs and the private sector, ideas and technology are often slow to reach the market. And federal government red tape discourages the private sector from using the unique state-of-the-art facilities the national labs offer.

This bill grants lab directors signature authority for agreements with private sector entities valued at less than \$1 million. And it extends a pilot program that allows for more flexible contract terms between companies and lab operators.

This bill also requires DOE to assess its capability to authorize, host, and oversee privately funded fusion research and next generation fission reactor prototypes.

Due to regulatory uncertainty from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the private sector currently has little incentive or ability to build reactor prototypes.

This legislation represents a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to modernize and increase the productivity of the DOE national lab system.

I again thank Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. PERLMUTTER for their initiative on this issue and encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1158, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2262, SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 880, AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 22, 2015, THROUGH MAY 29, 2015

Mr. STIVERS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-127) on the resolution (H. Res. 273) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2262) to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 880) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and providing for proceedings during the period from May 22, 2015, through May 29, 2015, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1335, STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. STIVERS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-128) on the resolution (H. Res. 274) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1335) to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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#### VIRGINIA TASK FORCE 1

(Mrs. COMSTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to thank the brave men and