

The Power of Technology & Research

Chairs & Writers

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House Science, Space & Technology

Brief History

The House Committee on Space Science and Technology was first established in 1958, following the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik. The committee was formerly known as the Committee on Science and Astronautics and was initially tasked with overseeing NASA and other federal agencies involved in the research and development of scientific technology. In 1974 the Committee's jurisdiction was changed, expanding to include scientific research and development that was not related to space. Later in 1987 the committee's name was changed to the House Committee on Space Science and Technology, and has since then continued to oversee federal agencies involved in scientific development and research along with legislative issues related to science and technology policy.

Jurisdiction

The Science Space and Technology Committee (SST) has jurisdiction over all research, development, projects, and demonstrations that aren't related to Government activity in its military. More specifically, the SST oversees studies involving energy, environment, technological advancements, and aeronautics.

Subcommittee of SST include:

- Subcommittee on Energy
- Subcommittee on Environment
- Subcommittee on Research and Technology
- Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
- Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

For the fellow topics being discussed in this committee, the subcommittees on Energy, Environment, Investigations, and Oversight are relevant.

Case 1: Space Race and the Creation of NASA

Background:

In response to the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik 1 into orbit on October 4, 1957, the United States entered the "Space Race." The fear of falling behind in space technology prompted Congress to take action.

Details and Breakdown:

- **Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration:**
 - **In 1958, the 85th Congress established the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration.**
 - **Chaired by Majority Leader John William McCormack, this committee played a pivotal role in drafting the National Aeronautics and Space Act.**
 - **The act led to the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which has since been at the forefront of space exploration.**

Advantages:

- **Scientific Advancements:** NASA's establishment facilitated groundbreaking scientific research, space exploration, and technological innovations.
- **International Leadership:** The United States became a global leader in space exploration, fostering international cooperation.

Disadvantages:

- **Costs and Budgetary Constraints:** Funding space programs can be expensive, leading to debates over budget allocations.
- **Ethical Dilemmas:** Balancing scientific progress with ethical considerations, such as environmental impact and safety.

Views Introduction:

Republican Views:

- **Emphasis on National Security:** Republicans often prioritize national security and technological superiority.
- **Support for Robust Space Programs:** They advocate for strong funding for space research and development.

Democrat Views:

- **Investment in Education and Social Welfare:** Democrats link space exploration to broader societal goals.
 - **Balancing Priorities:** They seek to balance space exploration with other critical needs, such as education and healthcare.
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Case 2: Climate Change and Environmental Research

Background:

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has been actively involved in addressing climate change and promoting environmental research.

Details and Breakdown:

- **Oversight of Environmental Agencies:**
 - The committee oversees agencies such as the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**.
 - It plays a crucial role in shaping policies related to climate science, pollution control, and environmental protection.

Advantages:

- **Scientific Understanding:** By supporting research and data collection, the committee contributes to a better understanding of climate change.
- **Mitigation Strategies:** It helps develop strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on communities.

Disadvantages:

- **Political Polarization:** Climate change remains a politically charged issue, leading to delays in policy implementation.
- **Budget Constraints:** Adequate funding for environmental research can be challenging due to competing priorities within different houses and committees.

Views Introduction:

Republican Views:

- **Balancing Economy and Environment:** Republicans emphasize economic growth while considering environmental concerns.
- **Promoting Innovation:** They support technological solutions to address climate challenges.

Democrat Views:

- **Urgent Action on Climate Change:** Democrats prioritize aggressive action to combat climate change.
 - **Investment in Renewable Energy:** They advocate for clean energy alternatives and sustainable practices.
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Case 3: Upgrading of Rail to Meet Modern Standards

For many years, the US rail industry has been in decline. After the Federal Aid Highway act of 1956, highways were built across the country. This bankrupted passenger rail which was seen as obsolete. This is sad because until cars were common, passenger rail was able to modernize continuously. The US has missed out on High Speed Rail, invented by the Japanese in 1965 and made famous by the French in 1981, rail electrification on all but a few busy main lines, and cab signaling

We want US Rail electrification, higher speeds on conventional trains, and true High speed rail

Advantages:

- Economic Growth,

- fewer greenhouse gas emissions
 - higher quality of life for all
- Makes transportation more efficient

Disadvantages

- Can make travel stressful at times
- Can be super expensive to build and ride.

Republican views:

We want cars and personal freedom

It has to profit

Democrat views:

We want public benefit from this

Conclusion

The new age of technology is a subject of increasing importance as stands in its technology develops and becomes more prevalent in both social and political society.

Applications such as knowledge of our universe and the overall exploration of our solar system. Its importance especially in the 21st to discuss climate change as well as the pressing issues of the beginning of this ever-growing revolutionary industry. So, as a member of the House Committee of Space Science and Technology, it is your job to define the limits and

freedoms of this new age of technology and how we can gain more knowledge on these pressing issues to allow for the best integration of this technology into the nation and world at large.

Budget of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: The committee has a set budget of \$42 billion.

Beacon Model Congress SPRING 2024

Science, Space, and Technology
Committee

Bill Author

Delegation

Title: An Act to Stimulate Clean Energy Endeavors through the Implementation of a Carbon tax

Preamble: *Whereas* 27 nations currently have a carbon tax; *Whereas* a carbon tax is essential to discouraging dirty energy, *Whereas* the current carbon dioxide level in the Earth's atmosphere is the highest it has been in 4.5 million years; *Whereas* Sweden currently has a \$137 dollar carbon tax; *Whereas* Poland has a <\$1 carbon tax; *Whereas* a progressive scaling of the tax would be beneficial to ensure equal opportunity for all American business; *Whereas* both disincentives and incentives are necessary to ensure rapid and embraced change.

Be it hereby enacted by the Beacon Model Congress 2024:

Section 1: Short Title

- a. This bill may be referred to as the Capturing and Lowering Emissions Across the Nation act, or the CLEAN act.

Section 2: Definitions

- a. Carbon Tax: A tax to reflect the societal impact of burning carbon. This price is measured in \$ **per metric ton of carbon emitted.**
- b. Section 45Q: a tax credit for carbon capture and storage. The minimum annual requirement is 500,000 metric tons captured.

Section 3: Disincentivizing Carbon Emissions

- a. Setting a carbon tax for corporations
 - i. A \$3 carbon tax on businesses making less than 1 million dollars per year
 - ii. A \$7 carbon tax on businesses making less than 10 million dollars per year and more than 1 million
 - iii. A \$12 carbon tax on businesses making less than 100 million dollars per year and more than 10 million
 - iv. A \$20 carbon tax on businesses making less than 1 billion dollars per year and more than 100 million
 - v. A \$30 carbon tax on businesses making less than 10 billion dollars per year and more than 1 billion
 - vi. A \$40 carbon tax on businesses making more than 10 billion
- b. This money will go towards the funding of this bill. Extra money will be put towards the overall budget of the Energy & Commerce committee.
- c. This will be a federal tax.

Section 4: Subsidizing Carbon Capture

- a. Corporations or private entities will receive \$10 per metric ton of carbon captured within the United States
 - i. This will be in addition to the 45Q carbon sequestration tax credit.

Section 5: Funding

- a. The funding for this bill will be generated through section three. Any immediately necessary funding will be covered by the Energy and Commerce budget.

Section 5: Enactment

- a. This bill will take effect 91 days after its passage.
 - i. Let these values be adjusted for inflation yearly.

Bibliography

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