

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**The Honorable Ben Quayle (R-AZ), Chairman**  
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation  
*Best Practices in Transforming Research into Innovation:  
Creative Approaches to the Bayh-Dole Act*

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Good Morning. I would like to welcome everyone to today's hearing.

Today we have the opportunity to survey some of the activities that universities and other organizations are undertaking to improve the transfer of federally-funded research. I know there are some innovative activities regions are taking across the country, and I am looking forward to hearing about what things that have found to work well.

Passed in 1980, the Bayh-Dole Act enabled universities and non-profit organizations, to retain title to their inventions that result from federally-funded research programs. In 2002, the Economist Technology Quarterly stated that 1980 Bayh-Dole Act was “[p]ossibly the most inspired piece of legislation to be enacted in America over the past half-century... More than anything, this single policy measure helped reverse America’s precipitous slide into industrial irrelevance.” Even after thirty years under Bayh-Dole, the process of technology transfer is evolving. That’s why we are here today, to understand how our nation’s universities and nonprofits can more effectively transfer federally-funded technology to better society.

University research is generally long-term and exploratory in nature. Even when a university works to patent a discovery, it may be many years before the intellectual property proves to be a marketable success. There are many reasons universities create new innovations, including profit, but I believe both the technology transfer process and incentives to commercialize are more complex than simply making money. Economic reward is just one of many metrics I suspect these institutions are driven by to accelerate technology transfer.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about their experiences with technology transfer and its evolution. Thank you for your presence and willingness to testify before us today.