



## Committee Spearheads Legislation to Improve the Recycling of E-Waste



Chairman Bart Gordon discussing the importance of developing a easy way for the public to recycle their obsolete electronic products.

Many Americans do not know how to dispose of their electronic waste, or e-waste, such as old TVs and cell phones. Between 1980 and 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated 2 billion electronic products were sold in the U.S.; of these, a little more than half are still in use and 42 percent were disposed of. About 11 percent of the disposed products were recycled, and 9 percent were collecting dust in our closets, attics, and junk drawers. This legislation is designed to improve e-waste R&D in an effort to make recycling safer, cheaper, and more efficient.

“Obsolete electronic products, or e-waste, can contain both valuable materials, like gold and silver, and toxic materials, like lead and mercury—none of which belongs in a landfill,” said **Chairman Bart Gordon**. “While we need to increase the amount of e-waste that is recycled, we also need to make recycling electronics safer and more efficient by investing in research in recycling technology, alternative materials and greener design.”

[Read more about the Committee's work on e-waste >>](#)

## Committee Supports Investments in Science and Technology to Create Jobs

On [February 13](#), the House adopted the conference report, [HR 1](#), the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.

The package relies on science and innovation as the keys to new American-made technology and will advance important work on urgent national challenges like energy independence and climate change.

The investment in science and technology not only helps to save and create jobs but ensure America's competitive lead.

[Read more about the specific science and technology investments in the Recovery Package >>](#)

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### Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the February edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter](#).

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,  
Chairman,  
U.S. House Committee

### [Additional February Agenda Items:](#)

[February 12](#)— *An Overview of Transportation R&D: Priorities for Reauthorization*

[February 24](#)— *How Do We Know What We Are Emitting? Monitoring, Reporting and Verifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

[February 25](#)— *Impacts of U.S. Export Control Policies on Science and Technology Activities and Competitiveness*

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## House Passes Committee Bill to Assure Safety of Nanotechnology

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On [February 11](#), the House approved [H.R. 554](#), the *National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2009*, by a voice vote. This legislation will strengthen and provide transparency in federal research efforts to understand the potential environmental, health, and safety risks of nanotechnology. H.R. 554 is identical to [H.R. 5940](#), to authorize activities for support of nanotechnology research and development, which passed the House by a vote of 407 to 6 during the 110th Congress.

## House Approves Committee Relevant Legislation

On [February 12](#), the House passed [H.Res.117](#), which supports the goals and ideas of National Engineers Week, by a vote of 422 to 0.

“Nanotechnology is already in our cell phones, cosmetics, paints, and refrigerators. It will soon help to protect the lives of our police officers and military servicemen, and is showing promise in the treatment of cancer and in promoting wound healing. There is no doubt that the potential of this technology is vast,” said **Chairman Bart Gordon**. “H.R. 554 will foster commercialization while ensuring public health and safety, and build upon a successful inter-agency effort in nanotechnology.”

The goal of National Engineers Week, February 15-21, is to raise public awareness of the significant, positive contributions to society by engineers.

[Read more about the Committee's work with Nanotechnology >>](#)

[Read more about H.Res.117 >>](#)

## Stem Ed

On [February 26](#), the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing to discuss informal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education outside of the classroom.



This hearing focused on the role informal environments, such as museums, zoos, and even conversations around the dinner table, play in promoting STEM learning. The hearing reviewed the [National Academies report, Learning Science in Informal Environments: People, Places, and Pursuits](#).

“The Science and Technology Committee, and our Subcommittee in particular, has made STEM education a top priority,” stated **Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Lipinski**. “We have heard time and again that we need more STEM educated graduates and teachers if we want to compete in the global economy of the 21st century.”

[Lipinski stressing the importance of STEM education.](#)

[Read more about the Committee's work with STEM education >>](#)

## Looking Ahead

In March, the Committee will hold hearings on [strengthening forensic science](#) in the United States, [FutureGen](#) and the Department of Energy's (DOE) coal programs, and past, present and current problems within the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ([ATSDR](#)). Please visit the [Committee's website](#) for more information regarding the exact dates, times, and locations of Committee events.

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