

Rep. Phil Gingrey
Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Technology & Innovation Mark-Up
February 7, 2008

Chairman Wu, I want to thank you for holding this Subcommittee mark-up on three pieces of legislation that address a wide range of issues under the jurisdiction of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. We have the privilege today to be conducting the Science Committee's first official business of this year and the 2nd Session of the 110th Congress.

Today, we consider H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007; H.R. 5161, the Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act; and H.R. 3916, a border security technology bill.

As we consider each piece of legislation, we will reaffirm that the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee plays an important role in a number of issues currently facing our country. Today, we will be examining issues facing first responders in local communities on a daily basis; the impact that our transportation infrastructure has on the contamination of our water supplies; and developing next generation technologies for the federal government to keep our borders secure.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also thank you for the way the Subcommittee has conducted the process by which each piece of legislation is being considered today. Each of the bills being marked-up today has gone through regular order. The Subcommittee held an individual hearing on each bill in 2007, providing Members the opportunity to ask questions of the experts in order for us to be better informed as we crafted each bill.

Furthermore Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank you for allowing us to work in a bipartisan manner on each piece of legislation. As these three bills demonstrate, we can accomplish more for the American people when Republicans and Democrats work together. Mr. Chairman, I applaud you and your staff for working with me and the Republican staff on the Committee to balance all perspectives to make these bills into sound policy.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this mark-up is an indication of how we can expect the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee to continue to operate throughout 2008. I look forward to working with you on these issues that we will discuss and debate today, as well as other matters that will come before the Subcommittee for the rest of the year.

With that Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.