



Committee: House Science, Space & Technology Committee
Event: [Full Committee Markup of H.R. 3168, H.R. 8437, H.R. 9326, and H.R. 8981](#)
Date: July 21, 2026

Executive Summary:

On July 21, 2026, the House Science, Space & Technology Committee held a markup to consider four bills spanning earthquake hazard reduction, geothermal energy, technical standards for artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies, and a biometrology program.

Our readout focuses on two bills of interest, listed below; the full list of legislation considered by the Committee can be found [here](#).

- Geothermal Power Opportunity With Expanded Regions (Geo POWER) Act ([H.R. 8437](#))
- Utilize Standards for All (USA) Act ([H.R. 9326](#))

Both the Geo POWER Act and the USA Act were amended during the markup before being favorably reported out of Committee with bipartisan support.

Member Toplines:

[Chair Brian Babin \(R-TX-36\)](#): Babin stated that the bills before the Committee are examples of bipartisan efforts to continue American leadership in technology, which requires showing up to discussions on standards and investing in energy. He highlighted each of the bills' ability to strengthen U.S. energy independence and diversify our sources of power. He also emphasized the need to counter China's influence on standards for AI and emerging technologies, particularly for American competitiveness.

*Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-18)*¹: Lofgren praised the Committee's continued commitment to developing strong bipartisan legislation relating to energy and technology. She argued that passing the Geo POWER Act is critical to scaling up domestic geothermal energy production. She highlighted the importance of boosting U.S. participation in standardization forums, but cautioned that federal visa policies restrict the U.S.' ability to host international forums domestically.

¹ The opening statement for Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren was not available at the time of this memo's distribution.

Legislation Considered:

Geo POWER Act ([H.R. 8437](#))

- Rep. **Nicholas Begich** (R-AL-AL) spoke in support of the bill, arguing that the biggest hindrance to geothermal energy development is a lack of funding for next generation projects. He argued that the bill will incentivize new investment in critical baseload power, and he emphasized that the bill is fiscally responsible, performance based, and will bring energy to Tribal and rural communities.
- Rep. **Keith Self** (R-TX-03) opposed the bill, stating the Department of Energy (DOE) already has the authority to support domestic geothermal projects. He argued that the bill unnecessarily spends tax-payer dollars on projects that seek to attract private sector investment.
- Rep. **James Gallagher** (R-CA-01) spoke in support of the bill, emphasizing the need to derisk the development of next generation geothermal energy. He offered the Geysers Geothermal Facility as an example of geothermal energy as a renewable power source that lowers energy costs. He specifically expressed support for the financing of projects with a power capacity of 30 MW or greater.
- Rep. **Suzanne Bonamici** (D-OR-01) expressed support for the bill. She proposed two amendments: (1) to require a report on the projects selected and the financing received; and (2) to prioritize projects in locations that have already received DOE investment to leverage existing data.

Amendments

- [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute \(ANS\)](#): Makes conforming and technical changes to the bill.
 - Passed by voice vote.
- [Bonamici 114](#): Directs DOE to report on technical and financial milestones of selected projects and describe the innovative financing mechanisms used under the program.
 - Passed by voice vote.
- [Bonamici 115](#): Prioritizes geothermal projects that have previously received DOE support to support ongoing data collection efforts and infrastructure development.
 - Passed by voice vote.

The Geo POWER Act passed by voice vote out of Committee as amended.

USA Act ([H.R. 9326](#))

- Reps. **Daniel Webster** (R-FL-11) and Self spoke in support of the bill, arguing that it will strengthen U.S. leadership in standards development for AI and emerging technologies. They emphasized that the bill is vital to maintain U.S. competitiveness and security in emerging technology sectors.
- Rep. **April McClain Delaney** (D-MD-06) spoke in support of the bill, arguing that U.S. leadership through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and other forums are critical for efforts to combat foreign entities of concern, such as China, who participate in international forums.

- Reps. **Valerie Foushee** (D-NC-04) and Bonamici supported the bill, but cautioned against the accidental release of sensitive and confidential information. They also advocated for expanded inclusion of all academic, civil society experts, non-profits, small business, and other stakeholders.

Amendments

- [ANS](#): Makes conforming and technical changes to the bill.
 - Passed by voice vote.
- [Foushee 087](#): Increases the participation of U.S. stakeholders in the standards development process.
 - Passed by voice vote.
- [Foushee 086](#): Safeguards sensitive information against improper release.
 - Passed by voice vote.
- [Bonamici 113](#): Includes an assessment and recommendations to address barriers for small- and medium-sized business, universities, and nonprofits to participate in AI standards development in briefing elements.
 - Passed by voice vote.
- [Bonamici 112](#): Includes consideration of additional entity types in NIST grant decisions.
 - Passed by voice vote.

The USA Act passed by voice vote out of Committee as amended.