

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Member Kathy Castor**  
  
***Hearing on “American Global Competitiveness at 250: Legislative Proposals to Secure U.S. Technology Leadership”***

**June 30, 2026**

Thank you, Ranking Member Schakowsky.

American leadership in technology is a goal every member of this committee shares, and several of the bills before us reflect that. The Chip EQUIP Act, the Robotics Commission, the bipartisan biosecurity and immersive technology bills are serious, constructive efforts, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in this committee to strengthen and move them forward. But we also must be honest about the ground these bills stand on.

Every one of them, from chips, to quantum, to biomanufacturing, is underpinned by scientific research and the scientists who power it. This Administration is dismantling that infrastructure in real time. At the very moment China has overtaken the United States in total R&D spending, this Administration has canceled or frozen more than 7,800 research grants here at home.

Even more concerningly, our scientists are leaving. The administration has driven them out of federal labs and, increasingly, out of the country. You cannot decide in 2030 that you need quantum engineers and have them ready in 2031. We can pass every bill on this list, but if we keep starving our labs then we are just naming technologies for China to implement.

However, there is one bill today that is beyond fixing. The PROTECT USA Act would give companies an impossible mandate. It tells any American company doing business in Europe, our largest trading partner, that it must break European law to satisfy this Congress, or follow European law and be punished here at home. This bill does not make American companies more competitive. It shields polluters and corporate bad actors from environmental accountability while leaving responsible businesses trapped between conflicting laws.

Let us refocus on competitiveness through innovation instead of economic self-sabotage. We already know how to do this: when this committee passed CHIPS and Science, we bet on American science and American workers, and that bet is paying off in plants and jobs across the country. That is what true competitiveness looks like.

I yield back.