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*Amendment will Promote Collaboration Between Federal Laboratories, Higher Learning Institutions, and Industry*

Washington, DC - Today, the Committee on Science and Technology approved an amendment submitted by Rep. Ben Ray Luján as part of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009 ( [H.R. 2020](#) ). Rep. Luján's amendment promotes collaboration between federal laboratories, higher learning institutions, and industry.

"My amendment promotes collaboration between federal laboratories, higher learning institutions, and industry-so that these laboratories and institutions' research and development activities can assist industry's commercial development efforts," said Rep. Lujan. "Our national labs are making tremendous technological advances every day, and we must take advantage of their discoveries and support their innovative research programs to renew America's economic competitiveness."

New Mexico's national laboratories are world leaders in research and development. Rep. Luján's amendment will ensure that their expertise is included in this legislation and that the United States continues to benefit from their knowledge. The amendment also recognizes the unique role that institutions of higher learning play in technology research and development. In New Mexico, many of these institutions conduct important technology research and development. In collaboration with industry, this research can make America more globally competitive and create jobs in New Mexico.

The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009 improves the NITRD program by strengthening its interagency strategic planning process and requiring input on the process from a wide range of industry and academic stakeholders. The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009 was introduced by Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN).

"The NITRD Program involves a collaboration of more than a dozen federal research and development agencies for a current total federal investment of approximately \$3.5 billion. To ensure that we make the most effective use of our own resources to remain a leader in these

fields, it is critical that these many agencies come together to develop common goals and well defined strategies for networking and information technology R&D," stated Chairman Gordon. "Given how rapidly this field evolves, a comprehensive look at the NITRD program by Congress is timely."

The House Committee on Science and Technology passed the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009 by voice vote.

[Go back](#)