

Yesterday, Ben successfully added an amendment to the Solar Technology Roadmap Act during a markup in the Committee on Science and Technology. The Solar Technology Roadmap Act would require the Secretary of Energy to create a comprehensive process for creating a roadmap for solar RD&D activities. The Act was introduced by Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona.

The Committee on Science and Technology explained the impact of the bill:

The roadmap will cover a broad range of important research areas, including solar power, solar manufacturing, solar heating and cooling, and integration of solar technologies into buildings. It will incorporate expertise from both the public and private sectors to provide recommendations on ways to address short-term, mid-term, and long-term RD&D needs.

Ben's amendment would expand the long distance transmission research and development provision of the Solar Technology Roadmap to encourage the development of advanced direct current and superconducting technologies that have the potential to carry significant levels of power over long distances

During the introduction of his amendment, Ben explained its importance:

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mso-bidi-font-size:10.0pt;} @page Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.0in 1.0in 1.0in;
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{page:Section1;} --> The development of direct current and superconducting long distance transmission technology can promote energy efficiency and reliability, so that any part of the country, including remote locations, can access the solar resources that are abundant in states like New Mexico.

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mso-header-margin:.5in; mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1
{page:Section1;} --> Superconducting materials have very little electrical resistance and can
carry large amounts of electricity with minimal electricity loss. However, superconducting
transmission technology is still very developmental and most superconducting electrical lines
have only been used for short distances. Direct current transmission also reduces risk of
electricity loss from the line and can move large amounts of electricity from one point to another.
Development of these two technologies has the potential to benefit the long distance
transmission of solar energy, and I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment.
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[Read the full release](#) from the Committee on Science and Technology.