



News from Washington

House Science Committee Poised to Unveil Draft of National Quantum Initiative Act



The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is preparing to introduce the National Quantum Initiative Act of 2018. The legislation follows extensive consultation with the National Photonics Initiative, academia and industry on how best to maximize our nation's quantum resources and research in order to transform quantum research into real world applications that will stimulate economic growth and keep pace with accelerating global competitiveness.



Edward White, Chair of the NPI, and Kent Rochford, CEO of SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, with a quantum computer on Capitol Hill.

NPI has been actively working with lawmakers to lay groundwork for this important legislation since 2017. Last year, at the request of the Science Committee, the NPI created a white paper entitled A Call for a National Quantum Initiative. The white paper explored how and why it is necessary to create a new information infrastructure using quantum technology. In October 2017, Dr. Chris Monroe, chief scientist and founder, IonQ, and professor of Physics at the University of Maryland, touted the potential benefits of quantum technology in testimony before the Committee given on behalf the NPI.

In April 2018, the NPI – through the expertise of Dr. Monroe and Dr. Michael Raymer, professor of Physics at the University of Oregon – unveiled the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) Action Plan and presented it to lawmakers during the annual NPI Capitol Hill Day that same month.

A statement from House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) can be viewed [HERE](#).

A National Quantum Initiative one pager from the House Science Committee can be viewed [HERE](#).

The NPI statement on the legislation can be viewed [HERE](#). It reads in part:

“The Science Committee’s work on this legislation is an important first step in the process of establishing a comprehensive national quantum policy,” said Edward White, Chair of the National Photonics Initiative Steering Committee, and Vice President Test, Assembly and Packaging for AIM Photonics. “The NPI has long been advocating for quantum legislation and has been working closely with the Science Committee to raise awareness of the potential of quantum technology and how it can be realized through an NQI. The NPI stands ready to continue serving as a resource for the Science Committee and other legislators as this process moves forward.”

The legislation will be formally introduced by Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) as early as next week and considered by the House Science Committee the week of June

25th. As the legislative process moves forward, we will continue to keep you informed.

For more information on the legislation, please contact David Lang at 202.416.1499 or Krisinda Plenkovich at 360.483.8786.

[Visit our website](#)

Sincerely,



Ed White, Chair, National Photonics Initiative

Contact Us:

The NPI wants to hear from you! Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Please contact David Lang at Dlang@osa.org or Krisinda Plenkovich at krisindap@spie.org.

Please visit the NPI website for more information: www.lightourfuture.org.

