

SUPPORT H.R.527 (as amended)
LEGISLATION ON THE FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE

The undersigned companies, associations, universities, and others urge the House to approve H.R. 527 as amended, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, to be considered today on the suspension calendar. The House approved virtually unanimously a prior version of this bill on April 26, and the Senate approved a slightly different version of this bill on September 19 by a 97-2 vote. The amended H.R. 527 under consideration today consists of limited revisions to the bill, and passage of this legislation is urgent and vital to the American economy and millions of jobs.

Congress must act before October 1 to secure the supply of helium that plays a vital role in the advanced manufacturing in the U.S., our health care system, and leading scientific research. Because of the importance of helium in so many aspects of the U.S. economy, a broad group of over 120 manufacturers, scientific organizations, universities, and others recently sent a [letter](#) to the congressional leadership urging prompt action on helium legislation in order to avoid significant disruption to the U.S. economy that would put millions of jobs at risk, shortages of a vital input to medical imaging devices that are critical to our health care system, and a weakening of America's research capabilities.

H.R. 527 as amended would:

- **Prevent a significant disruption to the economy** – the Federal Helium Reserve supplies about half of all domestic supplies of helium and 30 percent of global supplies, but under current law the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will begin to shut it down on October 1. Unless Congress acts, a broad range of manufacturing in America will face shortages of a critical material.
- **Reduce the deficit** – the sale of helium from the Reserve raises revenue for the Treasury and H.R. 527 as amended would reduce the deficit by over \$100 million.
- **Shift a government-run program to a market-based program** – H.R. 527 as amended would establish an auction to set a market price for helium, thereby providing the taxpayer with a fair price for this public asset and establishing a private market for helium.
- **Responsibly wind down a government program** – under H.R. 527 as amended, the operations of the Reserve would come to an end, thereby reducing the size of government, and the private market would assume the role of supplying helium to private users.

One D.C. interest group is urging Congress to oppose the bipartisan reform bill pending before the House and instead asserting that the “current, commonsense framework” should remain in place. This contention is misguided. Rather than being a well-functioning program, there is a well-documented record – including a [comprehensive study by the National Research Council](#), a [report by the Inspector General of the Department of Interior](#), and the extensive [record developed in House](#) and [Senate hearings](#) – that the current helium program is broken and in need of reform.

All House members should support H.R. 527 and vote in favor of (1) supporting American jobs and advanced manufacturing, (2) reforming a bureaucratic program in need of improvement, (3) reducing the deficit, and (4) shrinking the size of government by closing this program in an orderly manner.

Academy of Radiology Research
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
American Chemistry Council
American Chemical Society
American College of Radiology
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society (APS)
Applied Materials, Inc.
Association of American Universities
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
Arizona State University
Boston University
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Columbia University
Corning Incorporated
Cree, Inc.
Delphi Automotive
Eaton Corporation
Fairchild Semiconductor
Florida State University
Freescale Semiconductor
General Electric Co.
Geological society of America
GLOBALFOUNDRIES U.S. Inc.
Harvard University
IBM Corporation
Intel Corporation
Information Technology Industry Association (ITIC)
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA)
Michigan State University
Micron Technology, Inc.
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
New Mexico State University
New York University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oregon Health & Science University
Pennsylvania State University
Philips
Procter & Gamble

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Samsung Electronics, Inc.
Scientific User Committee of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
Siemens
Stanford University
TechAmerica
Tech CEO Council (TCC)
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas A&M University
Texas Instruments Incorporated
The American Institute of Physics
The Boeing Company
The Optical Society
Tulane University
Umicore Autocat USA, Inc.
University of California, Riverside
University of California System
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
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University of Delaware
University of Illinois
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Virginia
University of Washington
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University