NSCEB
National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

www.biotech.senate.gov

The Bioindustrial Scale-Up for Supply Chains and Energy Resiliency Act

Overview

The **Bioindustrial Scale-Up for Supply Chains and Energy Resiliency Act (H.R. 7936)** would amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish at least two bioindustrial scale-up facilities. These facilities would accelerate the scaling of emerging bioindustrial technologies, including through coordination with other relevant facilities such as those under the Department of Defense (DOD).

Background

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) assessed in April 2025 that a major roadblock for U.S. biotechnology innovators is proving that their products and processes will work at commercial scale, thus showing investors a path to financial return.

The United States is a great place to scale industrial biotechnology— we have abundant feedstocks, reliable utilities, extensive transportation infrastructure, and proximity to consumers—but we lack sufficient biomanufacturing capacity to make here what we innovate here. Because of this, many U.S. companies are choosing to scale-up abroad.

American innovators need access to a network of domestic precommercial biomanufacturing facilities that integrate state-of-the-art infrastructure to help mature their technologies. These should be designed and run as user facilities, where companies can pay a fee to access infrastructure and expertise.

Congress should authorize the expansion of existing Department of Energy (DOE) facilities that innovators can use to prove their DOE-relevant lab inventions, like chemicals and biofuels, work at precommercial scale. The DOE, through the National Laboratories, has the requisite expertise and capabilities to manufacture cutting-edge biotechnologies, along with trust from the private sector to help prove out their products. The DOE is well-positioned to optimize its scale-up facilities to meet the needs of the sector and drive U.S. leadership forward.

H.R. 7936

Sponsor:
Rep. Jim Baird
(R-IN-04)

Original Co-Sponsors:
Rep. Ro Khanna
(D-CA-17)
Rep. Stephanie Bice
(R-OK-05)
Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
(D-PA-06)

Available for Senate introduction

Congress established the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) to assess biotechnology's national security impact and recommend strategies to ensure American leadership.

Read the NSCEB's April 2025 report at https://www.biotech.senate.gov/final-report

Legislative Details

01 Strategic Plan

Congress would require the Secretary of Energy to submit a strategic plan detailing the number of intended facilities, capabilities and specifications, site selection justification, and approach to stakeholder engagement.

02 Considerations

The Secretary would consider a variety of factors, including the greatest need, existing capabilities in other federal agencies, and local or regional workforce capabilities.

03 Goals and Activities

These facilities would accelerate the scaling of emerging bioindustrial technologies, strengthen U.S. biotechnology competitiveness and workforce, and enable secure, interoperable data systems.

04 Collaboration and Coordination

Each facility would enable strategic engagement with a wide variety of public and private sector partners, including other federal agencies and their relevant facilities.

05 Intellectual Property

This bill would provide protections for IP rights for non-federal participants, while federal employee IP would enter the public domain.

06 Annual Reporting

Congress would require an annual report on current and future facilities, including current and past activities and collaborations.

07 Cost

This bill would authorize $225.5 million over a five year period.

Interested in leading or co-sponsoring this bill?

Please contact ideas@biotech.senate.gov