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REMARKS: REMARKS BY MRS. LLOYD

THE FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACT OF 1985 (H.R. 3773)

HON. MARILYN LLOYD

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 1985

Mrs. LLOYD. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3773, the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1985, also known as amendments to the Stephenson-Wydler Act of 1980. I wish to commend my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for drafting legislation that will indeed enhance the Federal Government's ability to move technology developed in our national laboratories into broader areas of the national economy. The elements of H.R. 3773 that are designed to enhance the implementation of the Stephenson-Wydler Act are, in my judgment, essential to assuring that the Government's continued involvement in the technology transfer process will be to the benefit of all our taxpayers.

As chairman of the Energy Research and Production Subcommittee, I have gone on record as a strong advocate of technology transfer activities at our national Government laboratories. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as the other nuclear facilities in the Oak Ridge area, has a long standing involvement in the technology transfer process. This past summer, the Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology, and my subcommittee jointly held a hearing in Oak Ridge, TN, to review the status, problems, and developments in the technology transfer activities of that region. We also received testimony from other national laboratories and agencies that have strong commitments to Federal technology transfer programs. Indeed, both NASA and the Federal Laboratory Consortium participated in these hearings and provided valuable information on the accomplishments of their respective organizations in this crucial area of Federal research and development programs. It was clear from the testimony provided to us that the accomplishments of the Federal Technology Transfer Program are real, and must be continued in order to obtain the maximum return on Federal investment in technology development activities at our national laboratories.

I am pleased to note that the contractor who is responsible for operating the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other Oak Ridge facilities, the Martin Marietta Corp. has made technology transfer an integral part of their contractural obligations to the Department of Energy. They have established a Technology Innovation Center responsible for establishing new businesses in the area based upon technology developed at the Oak Ridge facilities. They have also instituted programs to reward staff at the Oak Ridge facilities for their contributions to the Technology Transfer Program. These programs were put into place by the company without a specific legislative mandate to do so. Not all Government contractors are so aggressive at marketing technology, so I believe that H.R. 3773 would provide the basis for national laboratories to participate and implement dynamic activities related to technology transfer that may, under the present legislative directions, be vague or too restrictive.

The provisions that provide statutory authority to the Federal Laboratory Consortium will serve to strengthen that organization's role as coordinator and facilitator to the national laboratories' programs in technology transfer. The witnesses at our hearings in Oak Ridge representing this consortium suggested that such statutory authority would provide the basis the organization needs to certify its role as a focal point to user organizations for Federal technology developments. Presently this organization operates on volunteer participation which, although it has functioned adequately, lacks the full authority that a legislative commitment would bring to its programs. I, therefore, support H.R. 3773 to permit the continued strengthening of the Federal programs at our national laboratories directed toward technology transfer activities.