I rise to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues and

good friends, a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense,

Mr. Frelinghuysen, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr.

Dicks.

First of all, I'd like to thank the chairman and the ranking member

for their hard work on this very important legislation. Their efforts

to strengthen our national defense and support our men and women in

uniform have been tireless, and they truly should be commended.

Moreover, I'm very pleased that they make key investments in areas of

great interest and concern to me, the first of which is the Virginia

class submarine, as well as cybersecurity.

I believe that our technological edge is critical to ensuring that

our warfighters not only can do what we ask them to do in the future,

but can do so as safely and efficiently as possible. In addition to the

Virginia class submarine and cybersecurity, no family of technologies

shows as much promise to this end as directed-energy weapons.

With that, I would yield to the gentleman.

In this vein, I'd like to talk about the decades of

investment that this Congress and the Department of Defense have made

into directed-energy weapons research. More specifically, I'd like to

direct them to a recent report by the Center for Strategic and

Budgetary Assessment that clearly showed many directed-energy

technologies have actually matured to the point that cultural factors,

not technological maturity, are the most significant barriers to

operational deployment.

To this end, I offered an amendment to this year's National Defense

Authorization Act that would require a report detailing how we can

accelerate the deployment of the most promising directed-energy

initiatives; and I recognize the commitment that this bill before us

today continues in terms of investing in directed-energy weapons

technology, and I would encourage the committee to support these

efforts in future appropriations measures.

With that, I yield to the gentleman.

I thank the chairman for his and the ranking member's

commitment, and I certainly look forward to working to realize the

potential of directed-energy weapons and to harvest the Nation's past

investments in this family of technologies.

With that, I yield to the chairman.