



**ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
PARKS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Creating Communities of Innovation

**SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE TO HEAR TESTIMONY ON RESEARCH PARKS
AND JOB CREATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Research parks' role in job creation will be the focal point this Wednesday as the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hears testimony on Senate Bill 583 *Building A Stronger America Act* from Association of University Research Parks President Brian Darmody and Dr. Charles W. Wessner, Director, Program on Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship of the National Research Council, among others.

"Keys to employment growth in the U.S include not only jobs, but also building careers and new companies," said Darmody. "Research parks are ideal for the formation of high-tech startups that promote higher-wage jobs, better science and improved quality of life."

Sponsored by Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR), S. 583 provides grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

Research Parks and Job Creation: Innovation Through Collaboration

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building

Witnesses include:

The Honorable John Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Dr. Charles W. Wessner, Director
Program on Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, National Research Council

Mr. Brian Darmody, President, Association of University Research Parks
Associate Vice President of Research and Economic Development, University of Maryland

Mr. Jonathan Sallet, Former Director of the Office of Policy & Strategic Planning at the
Department of Commerce and Co-author of *The Geography of Innovation: The Federal
Government and the Growth of Regional Innovation Clusters* published by the Center for
American Progress

Dr. Anthony Townsend, Research Director
Technology Horizons Program, Institute For The Future

About AURP: The Association of University Research Parks is a professional association of university related research and science parks. AURP's mission is to foster innovation, commercialization and economic growth through university, industry and government partnerships. For more information, visit AURP's Web site at www.aurp.net or contact Chelsea Simpson at chelseasimpson@aurp.net.