

**News Release**

# Roscoe Bartlett

Representing the 6th District of Maryland

Committees: Armed Services, Science, & Small Business



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## **Preventing the Next “Unimaginable” 9/11 Attack** **New Report Projects \$34 - \$770 Billion Blow to the Baltimore- Washington, DC – Richmond Economy from EMP Attack;** **Local Governments Could Protect Critical Infrastructure**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-6-MD) participated in a Washington, DC news conference today to release a study that projected the economy in the Baltimore-Washington, DC-Richmond corridor would suffer a blow of between \$34 to \$770 billion from an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack, not including the cost of any infrastructure repairs. “EMP is a low risk, but asymmetrical form of devastating attack that would dwarf the scale of the damage from the 9/11 terrorist attack,” said Congressman Bartlett. Also participating in the news conference were Chuck Manto, President of Instant Access Networks (IAN), a Frostburg, MD company that commissioned the study, “Initial Assessment of Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Impact upon Baltimore-Washington-Richmond Region,” and Alan Shark, Executive Director, of Public Technology Institute (PTI). A copy of the IAN news release, the study forward by Congressman Bartlett and the IAN study are attached.**

The news conference took place in conjunction with the “1st National Preparedness Fair” hosted by the Senate Sergeant at Arms Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness in partnership with the United States Capitol Police, Sergeant at Arms, Office of Police Operations, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Senate Employee Assistance Program, and others with the support of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Frederick County, Maryland was one of the local governments that participated in the fair.

Congressman Bartlett said, “More than five countries have the capability to inflict an EMP attack. Rogue regimes and terrorists know all about EMP and are working to acquire this weapon. We know the odds of our house burning down in any given year are very low, but that doesn’t mean we will cancel our fire insurance. If America doesn’t develop insurance against EMP, we will increase the odds of inviting

this type of unimaginable attack in the future. EMP is a threat that our country can not afford to ignore. This IAN study should be emulated nation-wide by the private sector and universities in order to find cost-effective strategies for protecting the U.S. economy from the potential for devastating destruction by an EMP attack. The U.S. Congress' blue ribbon, 'Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from EMP Attack,' recommends exactly this kind of initiative by the private sector to help the U.S. government protect our economy and society from EMP."

Congressman Bartlett noted, "The Defense Department with the strong support of Deputy Secretary Gordon England is pursuing how the federal government can reduce the EMP threat. This excellent study commissioned by IAN and conducted by Sage Policy Group of Baltimore offers good news to local government emergency preparedness departments that it is possible to develop a low-cost insurance policy that will protect vital infrastructure against EMP. That is why I wrote a forward for the study. I am very glad there is a new pilot project at Frostburg State University (FSU) supported with a grant from the state of Maryland and the Public Technology Institute (PTI) to disseminate information and practical steps to local governments about how they can protect against EMP."

Congressman Bartlett authored the provision that established the blue ribbon Congressional EMP Commission as part of the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization law. The Commission report was released in 2004 and is available upon request. EMP Commissioner Lowell Wood called EMP attack a "giant continental time machine" that would destroy most electronics and transform technology back to the 1800s.

The Wall Street Journal editorialized on August 12, 2004, "We hope someone in Washington is paying attention. The EMP study, which came out the same week as the 9/11 Commission's report, got little media attention. It deserves more."

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