



**MITA**  
MEDICAL IMAGING  
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A DIVISION OF **NEMA**<sup>®</sup>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 20, 2013

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**MITA Commends Continued Bipartisan House Progress  
on Protecting Access to Critical Helium Supply**

Washington, D.C. – The Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA) applauded Representatives Doc Hastings (R-WA) and Edward “Ed” Markey (D-MA) for their bipartisan work to keep the Federal Helium Reserve operational by today holding a markup of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act (H.R. 527). H.R. 527 prevents the premature closure of the Federal Helium Reserve this year.

“MITA applauds Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey for their bipartisan work to advance legislation aimed at protecting critical access to the Federal Helium Reserve,” said Gail Rodriguez, Executive Director of MITA. “Failure to preserve our domestic helium supply will have reverberating effects on medical imaging and the entire health care industry, as manufacturing facilities will be forced to minimize or halt production and physicians will be forced to turn away patients due to the shortage.”

Helium is an essential component used in the creation and operation of medical imaging equipment, such as magnetic resonance (MRI) machines, which are critical to the diagnosis of stroke, aneurysms, cancers, multiple sclerosis and other deadly and debilitating diseases. Liquid helium is the only element that can feasibly cool MRI magnets to temperatures suitable for imaging; thus, MRIs must be regularly replenished with helium in order to maintain normal operating temperatures.

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*The Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA), a division of NEMA, is the collective voice of medical imaging equipment, radiation therapy and radiopharmaceutical manufacturers, innovators and product developers. It represents companies whose sales comprise more than 90 percent of the global market for medical imaging technology. For more information, visit [www.medicalimaging.org](http://www.medicalimaging.org).*