

July 23, 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
House Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon:

The members of the Tapping America's Potential (TAP) Coalition applaud House and Senate action on H.R. 2272, the *21st Century Competitiveness Act of 2007*, and S. 761, the *America COMPETES Act*. This legislation is vital to the future economic competitiveness of the United States and to the individual success of U.S. citizens in the global economy. We urge swift action on a conference report and we hope the agreement of the conferees can be unanimous.

TAP is a coalition of 16 national business organizations dedicated to improving America's competitive position by supporting policies that will increase the innovation capacity of the United States. Since July 2005, the Coalition has been taking action to reach the goal of doubling the number of U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates by 2015.

Enactment of H.R. 2272 and S. 761 will help to ensure continued U.S. innovation leadership and economic competitiveness. Agreement to a conference report that substantially preserves the content of the two bills would:

- **Strengthen K-12 math and science education** through improved teacher training in math and science; through increased support for the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program that provides scholarships for STEM undergraduate majors who agree to become K-12 math and science teachers; by increasing the number of teachers prepared to teach Advanced Placement and pre-International Baccalaureate college preparatory courses; and by providing Math Now grants to improve elementary and secondary math instruction.
- **Expand undergraduate and graduate science and engineering programs** through increased support for the National Science Foundation's STEM Talent Expansion Program, which provides grants to universities to devise creative programs to recruit and graduate more undergraduate STEM majors.
- **Increase funding for basic research in the physical sciences** by significantly increasing the authorization of appropriations for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science within the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Please support enactment of H.R. 2272 and S. 761. The future success of our nation and the ability of our youth to succeed in the global marketplace depend on your actions today.

Sincerely,

AeA
Business Roundtable
Business-Higher Education Forum
Council on Competitiveness
Information Technology Association of America
Information Technology Industry Council
Minority Business RoundTable

National Association of Manufacturers
National Defense Industrial Association
National Venture Capital Association
Semiconductor Industry Association
Software & Information Industry Association
TechNet
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce