

April 23, 2007

To Members of the United States Senate

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Tapping America's Potential (TAP) coalition, I urge you to co-sponsor S. 761, the *America COMPETES Act*, and to vote "yes" on final passage.

TAP is a coalition of 15 national business organizations dedicated to improving America's competitive position by supporting policies that will increase the innovation capacity of the United States. TAP is particularly focused on policies that would improve U.S. STEM education at all levels. Since July 2005, the coalition has been taking action to reach the goal of doubling the number of U.S. STEM graduates by 2015.

Enactment of S. 761 will help to ensure continued U.S. innovation leadership and economic competitiveness. S. 761 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, and by providing increased authorizations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Please co-sponsor S. 761 and vote "yes" on final passage. This critical piece of legislation will help keep America competitive in the 21st century. The future success of our nation and the ability of our youth to succeed in the global marketplace depend on your actions today.

Sincerely,
Susan Traiman,
Director, Education and Workforce Policy
Business Roundtable