

# Tapping America's Potential

---

July 21, 2010

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
508 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
508 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Senator Hutchison:

We, the undersigned U.S. companies and business organizations represented by the Tapping America's Potential (TAP) Coalition, strongly support reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act.

As a business coalition focused on improving U.S. student achievement in math and science, and increasing the number of U.S. students that graduate with bachelors degrees in math, science and engineering, TAP was an early and vocal backer of the original America COMPETES Act because it provided significant resources and incentives for improving U.S. math and science education. We very much appreciate your decisive leadership on enacting that landmark bill.

TAP supports reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act this year because it will provide additional support for scholarship and training programs to recruit new K-12 math and science teachers and enhance the skills of existing teachers. TAP has identified the lack of qualified math and science teachers in America's public schools as a major impediment to improved U.S. educational achievement in math and science. In 2008, TAP released the report, *Gaining Momentum, Losing Ground*, which documented how U.S. student achievement in math and science continues to fall short compared with students from our global economic competitors – despite commitments from the White House and Congress to improve U.S. math and science education.

When it comes to innovation, extending and expanding the math and science education provisions of the America COMPETES Act – building on proven programs with a track record of success – is absolutely vital to giving America's children the preparation they need to succeed in the 21st century workplace.

Reauthorizing the America COMPETES Act will help create a platform for stable, long-term economic growth and ensure that Americans will have the tools they need to compete and win in the global economy. We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

*(Signatories on Next Page)*

Abbott  
Accenture  
Aerospace Industries Association  
American Chemical Society  
American Council on International Personnel  
AT&T  
Bechtel Corporation  
Business Coalition for Educational Excellence at  
the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.  
Business Roundtable  
Business-Higher Education Forum  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
Cognizant Technology Solutions  
Compete America  
Corporate Voices for Working Families  
Eastman Kodak Company  
Eaton Corporation  
Eli Lilly and Company  
EMC Corporation  
Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Greater Phoenix Leadership, Inc.  
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce  
IBM Corporation  
Illinois Business Roundtable  
Iowa Business Council  
ITT Corporation  
Johnson City/Jonesborough/Washington  
County TN Chamber of Commerce  
Knoxville Chamber  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
Maryland Business Roundtable for Education  
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education  
Massachusetts Business Roundtable  
The McGraw-Hill Companies  
The Minnesota Business Partnership  
Minority Business RoundTable  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Math and Science Initiative  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Venture Capital Association  
NDIA  
Nevada Manufacturers Assn.  
New Mexico Business Roundtable  
Oracle  
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce  
Partnership for New York City  
Pennsylvania Business Council  
The Procter & Gamble Co.  
Qualcomm  
Quality Float Works, Inc.  
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce  
Rockwell Automation  
Rockwell Collins  
SAS  
Software & Information Industry Association  
TechNet  
Technology CEO Council  
Texas Instruments Incorporated  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Verizon Communications Inc.  
Washington Roundtable