



E-NEWS SPECIAL ALERT: President Signs America **COMPETES** Act

E-NEWS SPECIAL
AUGUST 9, 2007

(Washington, DC) - Extensive efforts to boost U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace and secure the nation's footing as a world economic leader culminated this morning when President George W. Bush signed into law H.R. 2272, the America **COMPETES** Act, a bill steered through Congress by **House Science & Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)** and other Congressional leaders.



Chairman Gordon speaks on the House floor on behalf of H.R. 2272 on August 2.

"We have to recognize there are roughly seven billion people in the world, half of whom make less than \$2 a day. We cannot and would not want to compete with that," said **Gordon**. "We have to compete at a higher level with a better equipped and skilled workforce than that of our global counterparts."

The measure is based on the National Academies 2005 report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" which found that the U.S. could stand to lose its competitive edge over other nations unless action was taken.

The **COMPETES** Act addresses educational challenges by authorizing \$33.6 billion over fiscal years 2008-2010 for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs across the federal government. The measure authorizes multiple grant programs to help educate current and future teachers in the areas of science and math education. The bill also invests in basic research and supports young researchers by expanding early career grant programs.

This bill also creates the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, within the Department of Energy. ARPA-E is designed to engage in high-risk, high reward energy research under the Department of Energy (DOE) – the first major energy provision approved by Congress this session.

"This bill will not only give our teachers and students the support they need, but it also advances our efforts to become energy independent. This will create new jobs and new exports," **Gordon** said.

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Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to this Special edition of the House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter. We wanted to share this information with you right away because this groundbreaking legislation has been a high priority for the Committee and has a wide-ranging positive impact on our country's students, teachers, workers and businesses.

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon, Chairman,
U.S. House Committee
on Science & Technology

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