

Dorothy Coleman

Vice President

Tax and Domestic Economic Policy

April 20, 2010

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
House Committee on Science & Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science & Technology
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) – the nation’s largest industrial trade association – thank you for your efforts to champion and support the America COMPETES Act. The NAM strongly supports the reauthorization of the COMPETES Act, as its programs are working to strengthen innovation in the U.S. manufacturing sector, and to build a stronger workforce.

Reauthorization of the COMPETES Act will continue to advance our national competitiveness by investing in basic research; supporting education in science, technology, engineering and math; and strengthening manufacturing’s ability to create jobs. We are especially supportive of four programs that are of significant interest to America’s manufacturers: federal funding for basic R&D; the Advanced Research Projects Administration for Energy (ARPA-E); science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education; and the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP).

Our economic future relies more than ever on our ability to innovate, and reauthorizing the COMPETES Act will help manufacturers prosper in a globally integrated and highly competitive marketplace. We appreciate the hard work and support of you and your colleagues on the House Science and Technology Committee, as well as your dedicated and hard working staff. We stand ready to help secure House passage and work with your Senate colleagues to ensure enactment of this important legislation this year.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

