

JAN 29 2007

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 2007

JOIN THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAUCUS

Dear Colleague:

For half a century, American science and engineering research, fueled in good part by federal research investments, has produced innovation and new technologies, created economic prosperity, and helped our men and women in uniform to defend our country.

Today, we count on that research and development (R&D) to create and sustain the knowledge base and innovations that will generate the jobs of the 21st century. Indications are growing, however, that the U.S. advantage in R&D is rapidly eroding. At a time when our Nation's commitment to research and innovation is wavering, emerging economies around the world are posing new competition for American technology, jobs and growth. As a result, the U.S. can no longer take it for granted that the top international talent will be available here to fuel innovation and help create economic prosperity.

Nationally, basic and applied research and development serve as the engine for our economy, and the vanguard of exciting new progress affecting all areas of life. Moreover, nearly every Congressional district in the country has a university, national laboratory, corporation, or small business that benefits, either directly or indirectly, from federal investment in R&D.

The R&D Caucus provides a forum to discuss important matters relating to the federal investment in basic and applied research and to increase awareness of members and staff concerning important R&D related issues. The Caucus will focus on:

- the importance of the U.S. R&D enterprise to ensuring our future competitiveness, national and homeland security and quality of life;
- the need for a balanced and robust R&D portfolio, with appropriate distribution of resources across all areas of science;
- how the U.S. system for support of science works and what works well and what does not;
- technological innovations resulting from federal and private investment in R&D; and
- trends in R&D funding levels.

The Caucus also provides a primary point of contact for R&D advocacy groups, and serves as an educational forum for a wide range of issues of interest to the research and business communities.

We welcome your participation in the R&D Caucus. For more information, or to join, please contact Don Engel in Rep. Holts Office (5-5801) or Paul Doucette in Rep. Biggert's Office (5-3515).


RUSH HOLT
Co-Chair

Sincerely,


JUDY BIGGERT
Co-Chair