

(February 3, 2006) America's Economic Success Requires New Investment in Education and Technology

Congressman Lipinski: America's Economic Success Requires New Investment in Education and Technology

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Lipinski applauded the growing bipartisan interest in promoting American innovation and economic competitiveness. In response to worrisome trends noted in a recent National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, Lipinski has been working on legislation to boost investment in education and technological innovation.

"President Bush's inclusion of science and math education and research coupled with the emphasis on energy independence in the State of the Union address indicates his support of these issues. I am a co-sponsor of three bills, already introduced, that follow many of the NAS recommendations, including increasing the number of qualified math and science teachers and increasing funding for basic research at the National Science Foundation (NSF)." stated Lipinski.

"As an experienced educator with an engineering background, I am especially aware that we need this investment so that American ingenuity can continue to create economic growth and new jobs in an increasingly competitive global economic climate." Lipinski continued. "I will continue to work with Members on both sides of the aisle to get this critical legislation passed."

The legislation is detailed below.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) Act (H.R. 4435) establishes a research program within the U.S. Department of Energy modeled after a successful agency at the Department of Defense. The goal of ARPA-E is to reduce US foreign energy dependence by 20% over a 10 year period.

The "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act (H.R. 4434) implements education recommendations of the NAS report, including the establishment of a scholarship program for science, math, and engineering students who commit to become teachers. Also, it establishes training programs for science and math teachers.

The Sowing The Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act (H.R. 4596) would increase funding for basic research at NSF and other federal agencies. It would also create research grants for up to 200 promising early-career researchers and establishes a presidential innovation award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances in areas of national interest.

