

LARSON INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO INCREASE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today announced that he would be one of two lead House sponsors of the “Tech Talent Bill” to increase the number of technologically and scientifically trained workers in the United States. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT) will introduce the bill in the Senate. House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (NY-23) is the other lead House sponsor.

Larson stated: “In the wake of September 11, we must remember that there is a strong connection to be made between our national security and the level of science and technology proficiency in America. Our strength and leadership in the world is based on the might of our defense, strength of our economy, and the quality of our education system. Without any one of these three components the global preeminence of the nation suffers. This legislation is an extremely timely and useful component in what must amount to a technological Marshall Plan for the United States. With so many of our scientific and high tech jobs going unfilled, and high schools and universities producing fewer and fewer students either specializing in or gaining their degree in engineering, math, science and the field of technology, action must be taken.”

“We as a nation must ensure that our students, teachers and workforce are well equipped with the intellectual tools they need to power and maintain sustained economic growth, the defense of the nation, and our education system. We must create a pipeline of highly trained technologically skilled workers and teachers to serve as the backbone for our workforce. I am honored to be one of the sponsors of this legislation in the House of Representatives along with Chairman Boehlert,” said Larson.

The legislation will establish a competitive grant program through the National Science Foundation to reward universities and community colleges that will commit to increasing the number of students that receive degrees in science, math, engineering and technology fields. This will be part of a \$25 million pilot program that will award three-year grants. Sponsors of the bill estimate that funding will increase in the future to as much as \$200 million a year, based on the success of the program.