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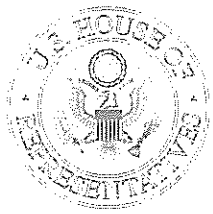

JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1728 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

March 28, 2004

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
H-149 the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Murtha
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
H-149, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Murtha:

I am respectfully requesting funding of the Advanced Processing and Prototyping Center (APPC), as part of the National Technology Initiative (NTI) located on the Sematech technology campus in Austin, TX. This important project is urgently needed to protect, preserve and grow the U.S. semiconductor industry.

The United States is currently facing a dramatic challenge to its technology preeminence as China, Taiwan and other Asian nations have increasingly lured new technology investment and manufacturing offshore with aggressive tax breaks and other subsidies. This trend, if allowed to continue, presents unacceptable threats to U.S. leadership in advanced technology with grave consequences for U.S. economic competitiveness and national security.

Asia continues to outpace the United States in the installation of semiconductor fabrication facilities – China alone has as many as 19 manufacturing facilities currently online or under construction. The Asian-Pacific region is projected to control 65 percent of the world's semiconductor capabilities if left unchallenged. Moreover, since 2002, the U.S. has lost 574,000 high paying, high tech jobs. Absent a coordinated effort, advanced R&D capability threatens to follow because advanced research, development and engineering efforts typically require geographic proximity to advanced manufacturing capability. All of these developments, if left unaddressed, threaten continued out-migration of capital investment and skilled jobs that will harm long term U.S. economic competitiveness.

Perhaps more importantly, the loss of advanced technology leadership in the areas of manufacturing, advanced R&D and design carry grave consequences for U.S. national security. Numerous defense and homeland security applications such as advanced signal processing, smart munitions, wireless-anywhere networks, biosensors, and multi-integrated nanosystems will require technology innovations not currently in development. The loss of access to secure, multi-technology advanced prototyping capability for national defense, intelligence, and homeland security applications is unacceptable. Reliance on foreign sites for prototyping and supply of sensitive technologies would create a critical strategic weakness for the United States.

When the U.S. faced a similar competitive threat from Japan in the 1980's, the Department of Defense and private industry collaborated to create Sematech – a public-private consortium widely credited with regaining U.S. leadership in the semiconductor arena. Since its inception, approximately $900 Million in federal support and more than $2 Billion from private industry has been jointly invested in Sematech programs and facilities, which can be quickly transformed to address converging advanced technology R&D requirements.

Today the stakes are even higher. Semiconductor technology and R&D infrastructure are the basis for critical developments in nanotechnology, biotechnology, MEMS, IT/wireless, photonics, and manufactured energy. The National Technology Initiative was formulated as a progressive response, analogous to the formation of SEMATECH. It is a collaboration between the federal government, the State of Texas, academia, and private industry to co-locate and Advanced Materials Research Center and Advanced Processing and Prototyping Center (APPC), which will respectively provide multi-technology research and fabrication capabilities built upon the existing investment in SEMATECH programs and facilities.

The NTI has already received an $80 Million commitment from the state of Texas. We are respectfully requesting that Congress reestablishes the original funding partnership, including the investment of $50 Million in APPC under the Department of Defense in FY2005. This facility will be a national resource used by government, academia, and private industries for co-located innovation of the critical next-generation technologies that will guarantee U. S. security and economic competitiveness for the coming decades. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John Culberson

John Culberson
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Murtha:

I am respectfully requesting the final year of funding for the T5, Texas Training and Technology against Trauma and Terrorism project. Research on this vital project is currently being conducted at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

I appreciate your past support of this project. As you know, the T5 program researches ways that our military and local communities can reach victims of terrorism and trauma and get them to vital treatment facilities faster. Researchers are working to significantly improve first responder communication capabilities, improve surveillance methods and increase disaster preparedness capabilities. Further funding is critical to these efforts as well as new efforts to speed diagnosis and treatment during a chemical and biological attack.

The T5 program has been previously funded through the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The program is requesting $11 million in funding for FY 2005, the same level of funding received in FY 2004.

I applaud your continued commitment to providing our men and women in the Armed Forces with the tools they need to perform the awesome task of defending this great nation. I look forward to working with you to ensure that our military remains second to none. I understand that you face extraordinary budget constraints each year and appreciate your consideration of funding for the cutting edge research done at the UT Health Science Center Houston's T5 program. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John Culberson

John Culberson
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Murtha:

I am respectfully requesting $8 million in PE 0602236N Warfighter Sustainment Applied Research for Carbon Nanotechnologies, Inc. and Foster-Miller Inc. in the FY2005 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Increasing proliferation of sophisticated air-defense systems and networks throughout the world has degraded U.S. capabilities to evade detection and has created high risks to U.S. military personnel and equipment. This increased vulnerability has made necessary the acceleration of research and development of technology to lower the radar signature of naval aircraft and aerial weapons systems. Low-observable technology, which includes special surface and interfacial sealant materials and devices, is most often based on conductive materials that absorb and scatter radar signals.

Carbon Nanotechnologies, Inc. and Foster-Miller, Inc. have developed expertise in the area of low observable caulks, sealants and gaskets. These two firms have formed a team to develop and demonstrate the potential of the carbon nanotube caulks, sealants, and gaskets, which will replace the current inventory of products containing conventional metallic fillers. They offer significant improvements over current technology, specifically regarding significant weight savings, increased absorption/deflection potential, service life, and cost.

This program will ensure that Navair has access to advanced, robust, low-weight, low-cost and environmentally sound low-observable caulks, sealants and gaskets, thus ensuring the stealth characteristics of its current and future air fleets. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress