

Castle Highlights Recent Steps Congress Has Taken to Boost American Competitiveness in Global Economy -- May 9, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, a senior Member of the House Education and Labor Committee and a senior Member of the House Financial Services Committee, today spoke to over 70 members of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce during their annual visit to Washington D.C., focusing on the importance of American competitiveness in the growing worldwide economy. Castle highlighted several bills recently passed by Congress which authorize funding for greater scientific research and work to increase the number of students majoring in math and science-related fields in the United States.

Rep. Castle recently supported several pieces of legislation which, among other initiatives, authorize \$664 million for the National Science Robert Noyce Scholarship Foundation through 2012, secure \$6.4 billion in funds for the National Science Foundation, and support federal grants through 2012 for early-career scientists and engineers at universities.

"It is imperative that our children are being encouraged to study math and the sciences starting at an early age and ensure that instruction in those areas is challenging enough to compete with other nations. Additionally, I hope that the increased attention towards these subjects motivate students to pursue higher education degrees in these critical fields. I fully support Congress' recent efforts to fund math and science education and research to strengthen students' progress in these disciplines. I would also like to commend the scientific research taking place in Delaware at our higher institutions in cutting-edge areas, such as the production of one of the first hybrid-fuel cell buses and the founding of biotechnical company Orphagenix Inc. at UD as well as the founding of the Delaware State University Center for Hydrogen Storage Research. Working together, these initiatives will help the United States achieve the same overall goal of increasing competitiveness," Castle said.

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