

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2002

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
House of Representatives
H 232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are writing to urge you to bring the Export Administration Act (EAA) to the House Floor for consideration as soon as possible. Passage of effective EAA is critical if we are to enhance our nation's national and economic security.

As you know, Congress has not passed an updated EAA since 1990. We agree with the President that the world has changed and we need a new Export Administration Act. Unfortunately, our inability to make current our system of export controls means that American firms are disadvantaged in their ability to compete in overseas markets.

Under the circumstances, we believe you should move quickly by using the Senate version as a substitute. The Senate bill garnered strong bipartisan support last year, passing by a margin of 85-14. Also, the President has expressed his strong support for the Senate bill. Each of the House versions of the EAA – as reported by the House International Relations Committee and the House Armed Services Committee – contain serious flaws that will undermine the effort to develop and implement a new and more effective system of national security export controls.

Make no mistake, this is a matter of national security. The Senate version of the EAA controls sensitive items without squandering vital resources trying to restrict products that are readily available from foreign sources or have mass market availability. Resources generated by American exports fund the next generation of research and development that heightens our security and ensures that our nation remains the world leader in technology.

We all agree that the goal of EAA must be to maintain – and improve – our national security. We will not accept any legislation that undermines our security or allows for the proliferation of sensitive technologies. To accomplish this goal, Congress must strike a balance that not only effectively controls the export of sensitive items, but has a rational approach to determining which products can and should be suitable for export. We believe the Senate bill strikes this balance.

Unfortunately, the HASC and HIRC versions of EAA will not accomplish the dual goals of heightening both national and economic security. We strongly urge you to bring EAA to the Floor as soon as possible and that you allow consideration of the Senate version of this legislation as a substitute. We appreciate your consideration of these views and look forward to continuing our work on this important measure.

Sincerely,

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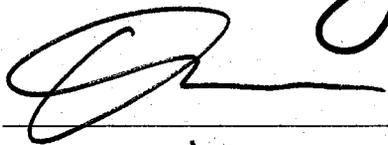
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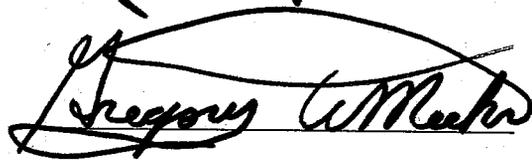
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