

June 16, 2008

The Honorable Michael Honda
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

The Automation Federation would like to offer its support for your legislation that would create “The Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Act of 2008”, (HR 6104). The Automation Federation recognizes the importance of this legislation which you and Senator Obama have proposed. We feel that the development of the next generation of automation professionals should be a significant discussion point of this legislation.

Automation, the creation and application of technology to monitor, control, and sustain the production of goods and services; touches every industry in the United States and the world. The manufacturing, communications, mining, steel, oil production and refining, consumer products, pharmaceuticals, food and beverage, aerospace, water treatment (municipal and waste), and automotive industries are all dependant upon automation and its regulation. As you are well aware, the success of the processing and manufacturing industries rely upon the ability to produce output in a consistent and cost effective manner.

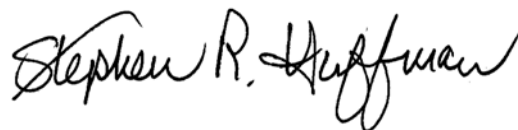
Technology innovations and industrial process enhancements are the key to efficient production in all industries. Over the years, the automation professionals, as experts in operational, process and manufacturing methods, have been working to improve flexibility, throughput, quality, safety, cyber-security, and environmental protection; using new technology to integrate measurement, control, and diagnostic activities at each level from the plant floor primary sensors all the way to the business system.

The Automation Federation is an umbrella organization formed to give a voice to the automation professionals which are dedicated to improve industrial production, technologies and processes. As part of our educational efforts, the Automation Federation has begun the task of informing the Members of Congress about the valuable contributions our members make to industry through these activities in the global marketplace, the many technical jobs created by such automation activities, the subject matter experts residing within our ranks which may be used as valuable assets to our lawmakers, and quite importantly, the challenge facing us in the development of the next generation of automation professionals.

The Automation Federation is a recognized educational resource that you and your staff can call upon as this legislation develops. I have asked Michael Marlowe, Automation Federation Director of Government Affairs, to contact your staff to begin a communication dialog regarding this legislation. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Steve Huffman
Chair, The Automation Federation