

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

September 20, 2012

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act.

Manufacturers need a skilled workforce to succeed in today's global economy. Worker shortages abound not only among machinists and welders but also in occupations requiring expertise in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The lack of U.S.-born students with advanced degrees in STEM fields has forced U.S. companies to seek the talents of foreign-born nationals educated in the United States. However, our outdated and cumbersome employment-based visa programs—H-1B visas can take up to 10 years to convert to a green card—discourage these well-educated workers from staying in the United States.

The STEM Jobs Act will provide manufacturers with access to highly skilled talent when U.S. workers are not available. H.R. 6429 creates two new employment-based visa categories for Master's and Ph.D. graduates from qualified universities in STEM fields and increases the number of green cards available for these highly educated individuals.

This is an important and much-needed step toward reforming the employment-based visa system and will give manufacturers access to the talent needed for researching, developing and manufacturing new products and services that help them remain competitive. We will continue to pursue broad, bipartisan reforms of the immigration system and urge your support for the STEM Jobs Act.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes supporting H.R. 6429, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote