

H.R. 1868 – The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007

Sponsored by Reps. Wu, Gingrey, Gordon, Hall (TX), Mitchell, Ehlers, Udall (CO), Honda, Rothman, Smith (WA), Schakowsky, Moran (VA), Holt

H.R. 1868, the *Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007*, authorizes \$2.5 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for fiscal years 2008-2010. H.R. 1868 makes technical changes to the NIST statute and –

- Authorizes appropriations for each of the major programs: scientific and technical research and services (the NIST labs), construction and maintenance, the Baldrige National Quality Award Program, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), and the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) which is established in the bill;
- Establishes a reporting requirement for the NIST Director of a 3-year programmatic planning document and yearly updates, due with the budget submission, that will be commented on by the Visiting Committee of external industry experts;
- Establishes an MEP advisory board that will comment on the 3-year programmatic planning document and give external advice on the MEP program;
- Authorizes MEP to accept funds from other agencies and private sources;
- Creates the Manufacturing Extension Center Competitive Grant Program for MEP Centers to conduct research into manufacturing problems;
- Establishes the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) to award cost-shared grants to small- and medium-companies and joint ventures of companies, universities and other organizations to pursue high-risk, high-reward technology development with potential broad benefits to the economy;
- Establishes a TIP advisory board that will comment on the 3-year programmatic planning document and give external advice on the TIP program;
- Creates a set of manufacturing research fellowships at NIST;
- Creates a Collaborative Manufacturing Research Pilot Grant program for industry/non-industry collaborations to pursue manufacturing research;

To date H.R. 1868 is supported by the Alliance for Scientific and Technical Research in America, the Association of American Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Optoelectronics Industry Development Association, the American Council of Independent Laboratories, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, and dozens of other organizations, companies, and individuals.