

**ENGINEERING**  
**R&D** *symposium*

**6th Annual  
Engineering R&D  
Symposium**

**Dr. Russell Lefevre**  
President  
IEEE-USA

# The America Competes Act

Signed into Law August 9, 2007:

- Increases in ACI related areas
  - Double NSF Budget
  - Double Dept. of Energy Office of Science
  - Double NIST budget for certain programs
- Research funding
- Science Teacher Retention
- Science Early Career Support
- STEM Education
- Science Communication
- Math & Science Partnerships
- Noyce Scholarships

# The America Competes Act

However, the America COMPETES Act is only an *Authorization* bill

An authorization bill and a \$3.50 will only get you a cup of coffee at Starbucks

All programs in authorization bills need funds allocated to them in *Appropriations* bills



# The America Competes Act

- Congress passed a catchall funding bill on December 19<sup>th</sup>
- Disagreements with Bush Administration over funding levels
- Ran out of time in Congressional session, so they wrapped up 11 of 12 annual spending bills in one *Omnibus Appropriations bill*
- Bush signed on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

# 2008 Budget

2008 Omnibus Budget for Science and Technology called a “*Train Wreck!*” by many in the S&T Community

Congress and The Administration gutted most Science and Engineering budgets

The federal research investment would decline in real terms for the fourth year in a row



# 2009 SITUATION

- President's Budget favorable to science and engineering
- Congress also supportive
- But
  - The appropriations kerfuffle is still to come

# Key Messages

## Science, Engineering, & Technology

- Effective competitiveness and innovation policies will sustain U.S. technological leadership and encourage the development of a skilled, creative and competitive workforce
- Maintaining America's innovative edge in this field requires a commitment from Congress to invest in basic research and education. America's scientists and engineers need Congress to be a partner in these efforts
- Urge your Representatives and Senators to support the inclusion of additional science and engineering funding the Supplemental Appropriations Bill for FY 2008

# Requests

## Take Home Message:

- (1) Full Funding for America COMPETES Act
- (2) Restoration of Reduced Fiscal Year 2008 Funding in a Supplemental
- (3) Support for Engineering and Science in 2009 Appropriations Bills

# SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

- 244 ORGANIZATIONS-SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, AND CORPORATIONS SENT A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND STEM EDUCATION
- DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER SIGNED BY 31 REPRESENTATIVES (BIPARTISAN)