

AMERICAN ENGINEER™

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NEW H-1B EFFORT

It is becoming more and more obvious industry is preparing for another run at increasing the numbers of H-1b engineers and IT professionals in the very near future. There have been several articles about the new cap being reached before the end of the physical year. Make no mistake about it industry has as their objective to be able to hire anyone from anywhere at the lowest cost possible.

There has been two bill introduced so far, one by Senator Gramm from Texas and one in the house by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California.

Senator Gramm introduced legislation (S. 1440) to raise the caps to 200,000 a year for three years and uncap the limits entirely on foreign nationals with masters degrees earning \$60,000 a year and foreign nationals with baccalaureate degrees employed by educational institutions.

Representative Zoe Lofgren has introduced a bill (H.R. 2687) to create a new visa category for foreign students who are completing degrees in math, science, engineering and computer science at US educational institutions.

The San Jose Mercury News states "In contrast to the H-1B visas now used by the high-tech industry and other fields to hire skilled foreigners, Lofgren's new category of T, or Tech, visas would have no annual cap on the number that could be granted. The T visas would allow a worker to stay in the country for up to five years, while the H-1B allows up to three years, with the possibility of renewal for another three years."

Not only do they want low cost labor, they want to have it subsidized by you and I. Subsidized through the university system, through layoffs and social costs to the taxpayer.

We must start mustering our forces now in order to fight this new effort. In order to be effective in the coming H-1b fight, we must quickly establish a communication channel. At this stage, it will be more efficient to do this by e-mail.

We must have your help in gathering layoff data, we need your e-mail address if you have one so that we may contact you with the latest information and inform you of needed action. We will need to generate as many letters, phone calls and faxes to Congress as possible, Often within a day or two. We have no other way to contact you on a very short notice.

Please send an e-mail to billr@aea.org so that we may take your address directly from your e-mail. If you sent in dues with an e-mail address and have not received an e-mail response, then we have either copied your address in error or could not read the address.

All personal information is held in the strictest confidence by AEA, including your e-mail address. This information will not be shared with anyone without your permission. We may on occasion forward information or request for help from other groups we work with. Again, we will not share your information with anyone without contacting you first for your permission.

Stump Introduces Moratorium

Representative Bob Stump (R. Az) has introduced HR-41, a bill to institute a five-year moratorium on legal immigration. At last count Rep. Stumps bill had 49 or 50 co-sponsors, we could use 435.

This bill WILL NOT affect the H-1b temporary foreign workers in any way.

The number of immigrants has virtually tripled since 1970. Immigration is at historic highs and there is no indication that it will slow down in the near future. We are importing poverty and these people are competing with our native poor for jobs and a better life.

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Stump (Cont)

We should not base our immigration policies on the assumption that our current economic environment will be here from now on. We cannot support immigration at the current levels, raise the level of our own impoverished and maintain our current economic well-being.

Rep. Stump's bill would limit legal immigration to about 300,000 per year for the five-year duration of the program. This period would give INS time to get their ducks in order, give Congress better insight into the affects of immigration on the nation and, perhaps give some of our less fortunate citizens an opportunity to raise their standard of living.

While the bill does not affect the H-1b, it is worth our time to support the bill as many engineers, scientists and programmers enter under other visa classifications, which would be affected by this bill.

There is no down side to this proposal for the American engineer, citizen or the nation. The downside for the immigrant is perhaps having to wait a little longer to realize their dreams.

New AEA Phone Number

Last year was a disaster for AEA in several respects. We experienced several computer problems, which resulted in the loss of many of our records, bills that had been unpaid for months, phone bills that were being sent to an incorrect address etc., etc.

While we are caught up with all of our bills (as far as I know) we had disruption of our mail service, the box rent had not been paid, county trying to tax AEA for a non-existent office with all of the amenities, and our phone in Ft. Worth was cut off due to the address problem. We found out about these things only after they occurred.

In an effort to prevent these problems in the future, AEA President Bill Reed has taken over these functions for the near future.

While this has caused some inconvenience, it has provided an opportunity to reduce expenses. AEA has dropped the 817-656-2321 numbers. We now have Call Notes on 972-264-6428. This will be checked daily and responses will be prioritized and answered as appropriate.

Fletcher Resigns

Ian Fletcher has resigned from his position as Director of Legislative Affairs for personal reasons. We are sorry to lose Ian, and wish him well in any future endeavors. Thanks for your past efforts Ian.

E-Mail Addresses

Thanks to those of you who have sent your e-mail address to AEA. We need the addresses of as many of you as possible for several reasons.

First, we will acknowledge your dues or donations by e-mail. We will not acknowledge those mailed in without an e-mail address unless the member feels there is a problem with his or her account.

If you sent your dues or donations in and included your e-mail address, but have not received an e-mail response, either we could not read the address or it did not work. Please e-mail us at billr@aea.org.

Secondly and perhaps more importantly, we will need to generate as many letters, phone calls and faxes to Congress often within a day or two. We have no other way to contact you on a short notice.

Also AEA will try to update you on occasion between newsletters on important articles, breaking news or just stuff of interest,

It will be much better from this end if you will take a minute to drop us an e-mail, including your name and member number or address so we can make sure we have the right person. (It's easier and less time consuming to copy the e-mail address from the e-mail than to type it in.

Thanks

Readers Voice

Dear Bill (Reed)

Keep up the good work!

I am delighted to see your e-mail, but would also like to be on the AEA newsletter mailing list - if a print version still exists.

Sorry I have been non-active in your part of the cause lately. I am at 70, more than fully engaged in the Interior Departments struggle with the sweatshops in Saipan.

David S. North

(Mr. North is the author of "Soothing the Establishment" Subtitled "The Impact of Foreign-Born Scientists and Engineers on America" - University Press of America 1995. David gave AEA several excellent mentions in this book for which we shall always be grateful. He is now at the Department of the Interior and has indicated the letter is his personal views and does not reflect the Interior Departments policy.)

Readers Voice (Cont.)

Dear Bill: (Reed)

I finally got around to reading the newsletter you sent to me (Dec 1998 issue) and searched the web for the AEA Home page. I found it after some effort due to my novice status on using the internet. I want to congratulate you and all at AEA who have continued the battle for engineers.

Your web sight is just great. I was able to pull up your latest newsletter and also the same December 1998 issue for review. I was sorry to read that all your good work didn't result in a win but at least you gave the other side a run and caused them to spend big bucks to defeat AEA.

I have been very busy speaking at many universities. I now do this full time, as I had to give up my Forensic Engineering practice due to heart problems. I had quadruple bypass 15 month ago and probably would not have survived if I had still been working in the litigation arena. I have technically retired from engineering but do maintain my Professional Engineering licenses in Florida, Arizona and Utah.

However, I have resigned from IEEE, NSPE, and USPE societies since they all have one very basic flaw in common, they all don't seem to give a damn about the Profession of Engineering and those of us who were and are on the front line of the day-to-day action. Writing papers and journal articles is important to the engineering profession but Professionalism Issues are more important to elevate the engineering profession to a True Professional Status, which it currently does not have or enjoy.

I thought you might be interested in going to the following web site link to see what has been posted about me since I was last active with AEA.
<http://ethics.cwru.edu/boisjoly/RB-intro.html>

I've taken up enough of your precious time.

Best regards,

Roger M. Boisjoly

New AEA Website & E-mail Addresses

AEA's new website is finally online! Check it out and let us know how you like it. We want your suggestions on how to improve it and what content you want on it. **We urge you to make the AEA site your home page.**

The address is <http://www.aea.org>

The site has been submitted to some 500 search engines, but it will probably be months before all point to the site. Please encourage colleagues and family, friends etc. to check it out and give the site as much visibility as possible. They do not have to be technical people to visit the site.

We have exclusive E-mail accounts for our members with the address being in the form of yourname@aea.org. We have a nominal charge of \$10.00 per year for this address. I know, there are free ones available, but they are not "aea.org" addresses. Sending your e-mail with that "spiffy" return address will give AEA more visibility.

To sign up, just send a check and let us know what you want for your name and password. Upon receipt of your check, your account will be activated.

Also, AEA has jobs links to contract firms with a nominal charge to the listed company to help pay for the maintenance of the site. If you are a contract engineer, suggest to your shop that they may want to be listed. Who knows what kind of reaction you may get.

Visit the site often, as we intend to update it often. **It's very important to the success of the site to have a lot of traffic. It's very important to AEA as an organization to have a successful website.** Who knows, your suggestion may appear there soon.

\$5,000 Challenge

We are off to a great start on meeting the challenge, but we must not assume someone else is going to do all of the heavy lifting. The following individuals have donated funds to match the \$5,000 donation announced in the December 1998 edition of the American Engineer. To each of these individuals we offer our gratitude. We need to raise a matching dollar for each of the \$5,000 from the anonymous supporter. These contributions must be in addition to your membership dues.

The \$5,000 donation was made based on our performance in the H-1b struggle and on our plan for this year. We are free to use the money for any purpose consistent with our charter. If we can meet this challenge and meet our goals, it will enhance our chances of raising more money later on.

Contributors to the AEA Challenge will receive Honorable mention if they wish to be identified. Those who wish to remain anonymous will not be listed, by name, but you need to tell us. Also, if you wish to split your check between dues and contribution, you need to tell us how the split is to be made.

Challenge (Cont.)

Our thanks to the following **Honorable Mentions:**

First	Last	Donations
ERNIE	HOUSE	\$20.00
JAMES	ELLIS	\$20.00
LEE	HELMS	\$20.00
BRUCE	MERRITT	\$20.00
STANLEY	TOMKIEL	\$20.00
HENRY	VARGA	\$20.00
THEODORE	EBERSOLE	\$20.00
JAMES	MARIER	\$25.00
LARRY	FAFARMAN	\$25.00
PAUL	SIX	\$30.00
PAUL	GELENCSE	\$30.00
ALAN	BARMAN	\$30.00
SEYMOUR	WEINSTEIN	\$50.00
ROBERT	DUGAN	\$50.00
PAUL	KATTAWAR	\$70.00
SHARON	LONG	\$70.00
GARY	PRATT	\$75.00
ROBERT	BUSHNELL	\$100.00
BRENDA	ANDING	\$100.00
GENE	GOLESKI	\$100.00
JOHN	HOLLEMAN	\$100.00
DAVID	NORTH	\$100.00

Totals \$1,095.00

A China Surprise?

AEA has done a number of articles over the years on espionage and terrorism potential as it relates to immigration whether through direct importing of foreign workers or as students through our university system.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen on Meet the Press on May 2, 1999 commented, "Information is power". We have apparently let 50 years of power slip out of our hands.

The following 2 paragraphs are from an article by John North, a former U.S. counter intelligence agent. You might want to check his website at <http://www.intellpros.com>.

"HUMINT collection among the 60,000-odd travellers to the United States, almost all of whom have a technical or scientific purpose for travel - whether as students, researchers or otherwise - pose a considerable threat from the perspective of American counterintelligence services. In operations which mirror the "vacuum cleaner approach" characteristic of Japanese travellers whose reporting is processed through their firms to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Chinese travellers contribute to the same process."

"There has also been considerable discussion within the American counterintelligence community that the **traditional Chinese intelligence service approach to espionage - that is, exploiting ethnic Chinese overseas - has yielded to another aspect of capitalism.** In this light, the Chinese are seen as paying for the information from an intelligence asset whose sole motivation is financial, and not ethnic, cultural or political."

An article in the July, 1985 AEA News, the predecessor to this publication found that in 1981/1982 school year there were 34,174 students from countries on the "Designated Country's List", countries which was a list of countries hostile to the United States.

We do not have a current list of these countries at the time of this writing, but will try to get a copy and update the information.

WHAT FOREIGN STUDENTS STUDY, 1997/98

Business and engineering studies remain most popular among foreign students.

Field of Study	1996/97		1997/98		Change
	Students	%	Students	%	
Business & Management	95,860	20.9	100,395	20.9	4.7
Engineering	71,001	15.5	71,623	14.9	0.9
Other*	44,367	9.7	46,701	9.7	5.3
Math & Com Sciences	35,132	7.7	40,968	8.5	16.6
Social Sciences	38,691	8.4	38,849	8.1	0.4
Physical & Life Sciences	37,198	8.1	37,201	7.7	0.0
Fine & Applied Arts	28,030	6.1	31,412	6.5	12.1
Undeclared	28,456	6.2	30,553	6.3	7.4
Intensive English Language	21,541	4.7	25,675	5.3	19.2
Health Professions	20,099	4.4	19,941	4.1	-0.8
Humanities	15,927	3.5	16,453	3.4	3.3
Education	13,248	2.9	12,998	2.7	-1.9
Agriculture	8,435	1.8	8,510	1.8	0.9
TOTAL	457,984	100.0	481,280	100.0	5.1

*Includes fields such as General Studies, Communications and Law.

PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDS, 1997/98

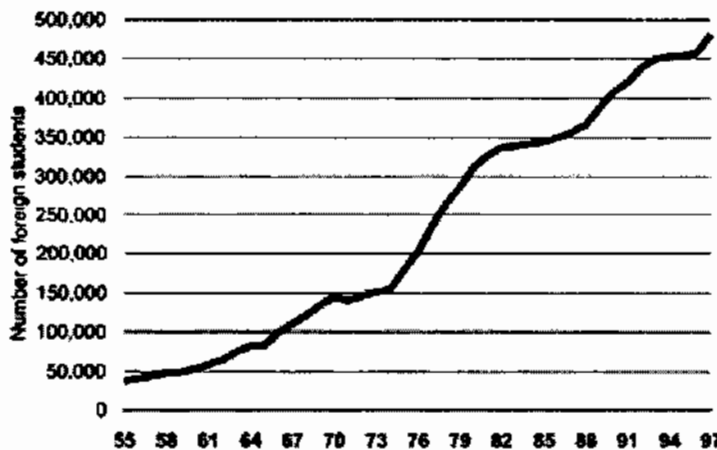
(Section 4)

Primary Source of Funds	% of Total
Personal & Family	67.9
U.S. College or University	18.0
Home Govt/University	5.9
Foreign Private Sponsor	2.5
Current Employment	2.3
U.S. Private Sponsor	2.3
U.S. Government	0.8
International Organization	0.5
Other Sources	0.2
Total	100.0

* Includes only direct grants to students not counting U.S. aid to institutions which also supports students.



TOTAL FOREIGN STUDENT ENROLLMENT Despite a 1,200% increase in their numbers since 1954, foreign students make up only 3.4% of the total U.S. higher education enrollment. (Section 1)



Year	Foreign Students	Annual % Change
1954/55	34,232	-
1964/65	82,045	-
1974/75	154,580	-
1984/85	342,113	-
1989/90	386,851	5.6
1990/91	407,529	5.3
1991/92	419,585	3.0
1992/93	438,618	4.5
1993/94	449,749	2.5
1994/95	452,653	0.6
1995/96	453,787	0.3
1996/97	457,984	0.9
1997/98	481,280	5.1

WHERE THEY STUDY, 1997/98

Below are the 25 U.S. colleges and universities with the greatest number of foreign students. There are 125 institutions with 1,000 or more foreign students. (Section 5)

Rank	Institution	City	State	Total Foreign Students	Rank	Institution	City	State	Total Foreign Students
1	New York U	New York	NY	4,964	14	U of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	PA	2,818
2	Boston U	Boston	MA	4,603	15	Florida International U	Miami	FL	2,717
3	Columbia U	New York	NY	4,080	16	Arizona State U Main	Tempe	AZ	2,711
4	U of Southern California	Los Angeles	CA	4,034	17	Texas A&MU	College Station	TX	2,684
5	Ohio State U Main Campus	Columbus	OH	3,878	18	U of Minnesota - Twin Cities	Minneapolis	MN	2,651
6	U of Wisconsin - Madison	Madison	WI	3,820	19	Northern Virginia CC	Annandale	VA	2,626
7	U of Texas at Austin	Austin	TX	3,666	20	Indiana U at Bloomington	Bloomington	IN	2,620
8	U of Michigan - Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor	MI	3,368	21	Cornell U	Ithaca	NY	2,612
9	Purdue U Main Campus	West Lafayette	IN	3,266	22	U of Houston	Houston	TX	2,591
10	Harvard U	Cambridge	MA	3,248	23	Baruch College CUNY	New York	NY	2,555
11	U of Ill. Urbana - Champaign	Champaign	IL	3,107	24	George Washington U	Washington	DC	2,467
12	U of Maryland College Park	College Park	MD	3,029	25	Iowa State U of Sci. & Tech.	Ames	IA	2,452
13	Michigan State U	East Lansing	MI	2,823					

Cartoon is by Gary Brookins of the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Tables are from the Institute of International Education 1997/1998 edition of their "Open Doors" publication. (<http://www.iie.org/>)

AEA and the Engineering Community need your help.

Philanthropist Wanted: One philanthropist with \$3000000 or 100000 members with \$30 will make things happen. We need the support and participation of all members of the engineering community if AEA is going to succeed in the fight for a better profession. There are 2 million engineers working in the U.S. today. How many are unemployed or under employed is hard to measure. Five (5%) percent of these employed engineers can make a difference between the success and failure of AEA. You can make a difference.

Please don't leave this to the other engineer. Remember, to all other engineers, you are the other engineer. Help AEA bring the fight to Washington. No one else is going to help you and AEA will make things happen.

I want to enhance my career and help the AEA.

Please enter my application and add my support to AEA's fight.

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Join AEA's effort by filling out the Application on this page or go on line and submit your application there.

Help AEA by making copies of this newsletter and get your associates to support AEA.

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(817) 656-2324, www.aea.org

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