

POSITION STATEMENT of the American Engineering Association, (9/23/06)

**IMPROVE UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL
WORK FORCE AND OPPOSITION TO IMPORTING FOREIGN WORKERS**

We believe the public policy of the United States should be to rely primarily upon U.S. workers for our supply of engineers and scientists. This Position is in response to false claims that America faces shortages of Engineers, Programmers and high tech professionals and companies must resort to importing foreign workers to meet demands.

In order to improve the utilization of American Engineers, Scientists, Programmers and high tech (ESPHT) professionals we must first provide them with jobs and the opportunity to enhance their skills.¹ To accomplish this we need a balance between the supply and demand of our skilled professionals.

AEA strongly opposes the importation of foreign Engineers, Scientists Programmers and High Tech (ESPHT) professionals. Evidence clearly shows foreign workers (H-1B, L1 etc.) are imported for the purpose of reducing labor costs and offer no skill advantages over our American professionals. In many cases American Engineers and Programmers have been directed to train their foreign replacements under penalty of losing their severance packages.²

For more than 20 years the Congress, American public, parents and students have been misinformed and inundated with reports of Engineer, Scientist, Programmer and high tech worker shortages. None of these reports have been true nor can their shortage claims be validated. The shortages never materialized. Nor do shortages of these American professionals exist today.

We believe, and symptoms indicate, the United States of America has a surplus of Engineers, Scientists, Programmers and high tech professionals. When properly utilized we have more than enough to maintain and increase America's leadership at the forefront of technology.

The surplus of these professionals, and importation of more, has so devastated the professions that current members advise their children against entering the colleges to study for these careers.

We have a history of shortage propaganda from the National Science Foundation, (NSF), the American Electronics Association (AeA), the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), Corporate America and our Colleges. One can also include the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) that direct their efforts to misleading students and parents of high school students about the demand for these professions.^{3,4} None of the

claimed shortages have been validated. However the shortage propaganda has so influenced the picture to distort conventional wisdom.

Congress and current legislation has now made it a requirement for American companies to employ foreign (H-1B, L1, etc) workers to compete against each other. This legislation automatically discriminates against American citizens. This legislation has been based on false information, reports and fabrications. Now it is the responsibility of Congress and quality legislation to resolve the dilemma.

As Engineers we realize all too well the shortcomings of using faulty components and false information or fabrications in the design of reliable systems. Briefly – garbage in, garbage out. We are all too familiar with the advances in technology, science and engineering projects due to our skills, dedication, honesty and integrity. We and the public are entitled to and expect the same, very best, from our government and legislators.

Every American, displaced by a foreign worker, is a consumer who has lost his/her or their families buying power. This has had a detrimental influence on these professionals and their American dream.

RESOLUTION:

A rewarding career and demand, for their skills and talent will be more than enough to encourage American students to seek the education and a future career in engineering, programming and high tech professions. This should be done by developing a balance between the supply and demand of our professionals and providing them with opportunities for a rewarding career.

- We oppose the importation of foreign professionals, workers and students for these professions.
- We oppose legislation drafted to bring in these foreign workers.
- We believe H-1B and other legislation to import foreign engineers and high tech professionals should be rescinded and these programs abandoned.
- We believe our American professionals should be recognized for their contributions.
- We believe these professions should be enhanced and rewarding to encourage students to seek these careers with out seduction tactics and shortage fabrications from the U.S. Government and other agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Cease importing foreign workers for these engineering, programming and high tech positions.
- Rescind all legislation to import foreign engineers, programmers, and high tech workers and discontinue all programs to import H-1B, L1 and foreign workers.
- Cease funding and subsidizing foreign students in our American colleges and universities for these professions.
- Strive for a balance in the engineering, programming and high tech manpower supply/demand ratio
- Actively dispel false reports and propaganda that have distorted conventional wisdom of America facing a shortage of qualified professionals.

NOTES:

1. *Enhancing U.S. Productivity Through Improved Utilization of Engineers*

www.aea.org/pdf/aea_position_utilization.pdf

2. *Program abuses may be costing Americans' jobs*

By Ron Harris POST-DISPATCH WASHINGTON BUREAU, 08/20/2006

http://www.aea.org/pdf/Program_Abuses_Jobs.pdf

3. *AEA Fights Shortage Propaganda*

www.aea.org/documents/activism/aea_fights_shortage_propaganda.pdf

4. *AEA Critique of NSF Study Claiming High-Tech Labor Shortage*

http://www.aea.org/documents/research/critique_of_nsb.pdf

John Miano testimony to the House Judiciary committee

<http://judiciary.house.gov/media/pdfs/miano033006.pdf>

The American Engineering Association can be reached at www.aea.org