

NEWS

from
**Paul
Tsongas**

U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

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TSONGAS PRAISES DEMOCRATIC INDUSTRIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas praised the policy recommendations released today by the Democratic Task Force on Industrial Policy as "sound, innovative initiatives of considerable significance to the future of U.S. competitiveness in the World marketplace." The Task Force, created by Minority Leader Robert Byrd and chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy, released the findings at a luncheon/press conference in the U.S. Capitol.

"We are entering a new era of economic change," Tsongas stated in his remarks at the press conference. "It is a time of rapid technological progress and sharpened international competition. Our success in meeting these challenges depends on maintaining U.S. scientific and technological leadership and a sharp acceleration in our rate of industrial innovation."

He continued: "If we are to ensure the economic security of our country, especially full employment for our workers, we must compete with foresight and vigor."

Organized nine months ago to develop democratic alternatives to current administration policies, the thirteen member task force concentrated on developing initiatives in six basic areas: 1) business/labor/government cooperation; 2) programs to stimulate innovation 3) improvements in education and other human resource programs to increase productivity; 4) trade adjustment assistance to adapt workers, communities and industries to structural change; 5) federal support for state development finance agencies and 6) trade programs to support the marketing of domestically produced goods and services.

Tsongas chaired the task force working group on innovation which drafted recommendations aimed at accelerating the development and commercialization of new products and processes. Several of the proposals suggested by the working group have already been drafted and introduced by Tsongas. They are: S. 568 - a bill to exempt businesses from certain restrictive anti-trust laws which prevent joint R & D ventures and S. 428 - a bill which provides for a partnership between industry, academia and government to identify technologies (i.e. super computers, biotechnology and new materials technologies) where U.S. prospects are favorable but jeopardized by targeted efforts in other countries.

Another innovation working group proposal concerning the establishment of an agency for technical innovation will be introduced by Tsongas in the next session of Congress. This agency would act as a clearing house for innovative technologies, disseminating them for commercial application, resulting in a more streamlined approach to innovation in government policies.