

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE**  
*hosted by Reps. Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Jerry Costello (D-IL)*

June 23, 2005

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
*Representative Jerry Costello*

There continues to be a lot of discussion about the off-shoring of jobs and the number of jobs that have gone to other countries. Except in a rhetorical sense, the outsourcing issue has not been seriously addressed.

The consequences of doing nothing could be profound. The reason we are hosting this event today is because the root causes of the off-shoring phenomena are many and not fully understood.

We need to get a handle on this for several reasons: Today we live in a rapidly changing global economy. The U.S. needs to address the increasing concern about the off-shoring of technical jobs from the U.S. to prevent a decrease in U.S. global competitiveness. Other countries are now investing heavily in their high-tech infrastructure and producing highly educated workers and cutting-edge companies. They are catching up to the United States.

U.S. Federal research and development (R&D) funding over the last decade and a half is faltering. During the past two years there has been increasing concern about the off-shoring of technical jobs from the U.S., which generally requires a technical education, such as science and engineering.

Although there is much debate and controversy on whether this off-shoring of technical jobs is beneficial or detrimental to the U.S. economy and the workforce, there is general agreement that off-shoring is happening, and it is a trend that is likely to increase.

I am particularly concerned this trend for technical workers could result in displacement for currently employed scientists and engineers and will impact future employment opportunities and the career choices of students. As we know, it is difficult to determine how many jobs we have actually lost because we do not have sufficient or accurate data on the problem.

For example, the U.S. Labor Dept. reported as part of a new survey that 4,633 jobs moved overseas during the first three months of 2004. Yet a report by a large Indian trade group known as the National Association of Software and Service Companies suggests that outsourcing from the U.S. is creating huge numbers of jobs in that country - around 200,000 technology jobs at the end of May last year (2004). The report suggests about 50,000 per quarter, which is more than the 4,633 jobs reported lost by the U.S. Dept. of Labor for last year's first quarter. And, the Labor Dept. survey is not limited to jobs going to India - they could be going anywhere in the world outside the U.S.

What we hope to accomplish today is to frame what is known and unknown about supply and demand for the Science and Technology workforce, outline factors that influence supply and demand, and explore policy options.

I am committed to working with Members on both sides of the aisle, as well as with industry, business leaders, policy groups, and academia as we address this complex issue. It is important that Congress has unbiased information to properly examine the extent of the off-shoring trend and its impact on our economy, in order to make appropriate public policy decisions.