

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 537

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Departments of the Treasury, Defense, Commerce, and Labor should take steps to assist in increasing the competitiveness of the United States electronic interconnections industry.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Mr. MEEHAN(for himself, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, and Ms. ESHOO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, National Security, and Economic and Educational Opportunities, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Departments of the Treasury, Defense, Commerce, and Labor should take steps to assist in increasing the competitiveness of the United States electronic interconnections industry.

Whereas the electronic interconnections industry, which produces printed wiring boards and printed wiring assemblies, is an important element of the electronics industry;

Whereas the United States electronic interconnections industry, a foundation of the United States electronics indus-

try, is vital to United States competitiveness in electronics and critical to national defense;

Whereas the United States electronic interconnections industry employs nearly 250,000 workers in the United States;

Whereas small and mid-sized businesses such as those that make up the electronic interconnections industry are the backbone of the United States economy;

Whereas the United States electronic interconnections industry has annual gross sales exceeding \$15,000,000,000;

Whereas the United States electronic interconnections industry, while currently a net importer, has the potential to become a net exporter, which will help reduce the United States trade deficit;

Whereas growth projections have confirmed the potential for a competitive printed wiring assembly industry, which is expected to grow more than 20 percent annually during the remainder of the 20th century;

Whereas the United States electronic interconnections industry is responding to the challenge of international competition and has reversed a market decline through a concerted effort in managerial excellence, operational efficiency, technological development, improved communications, public policy advocacy, and workforce education and training;

Whereas the United States electronic interconnections industry struggles with inadequate capital formation in the United States relative to its international competitors;

Whereas, although the United States electronic interconnections industry has battled back from the brink of extinction, ominous trends (such as declining research and development by major electronics manufacturers, closed for-

eign markets, and high employee training costs) continue;  
and

Whereas actions of the United States Government in the areas of taxation, capital formation, technology development, workforce development, and trade agreements are vital to ensuring an internationally competitive United States electronic interconnections industry well into the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) to assist in ensuring the financial soundness  
4       of the United States electronic interconnections in-  
5       dustry, the Department of the Treasury should de-  
6       velop an accelerated depreciation schedule to accu-  
7       rately reflect the depreciation of equipment used by  
8       the industry;

9               (2) the Department of Defense should develop  
10      a dual-use technology program with the United  
11      States electronic interconnections industry to up-  
12      grade the technological capabilities of the industry;

13              (3) the International Trade Administration of  
14      the Department of Commerce should develop a joint  
15      industry-Government program to expand the export  
16      of goods and services of the United States electronic  
17      interconnections industry;

18              (4) the Department of Labor should develop a  
19      joint program with the United States electronic

1       interconnections industry to upgrade the training  
2       and skill levels of workers in the industry; and

3               (5) within 12 months after the date of the  
4       adoption of this resolution, the Secretaries of the  
5       Treasury, Defense, Commerce, and Labor should re-  
6       port to the Congress on any actions taken within the  
7       jurisdiction of the Secretaries, respectively, to in-  
8       crease the competitiveness of the United States elec-  
9       tronic interconnections industry.

○