



**Thomas M. Conway**  
International President

January 31, 2022

**Via Email**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: United Steelworkers supports H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act of 2022.**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), I write in strong support of the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (H.R. 4521). Passage of this legislation will improve the country's manufacturing competitiveness, defend American workers from unfair trade practices, provide them with new skills, and bolster labor-management cooperation in the workplace.

The comprehensive work of multiple House Committees has created a product that will foster leadership in the global economy, which has seen a rise in state owned enterprises, dangerously concentrated supply chains, and an over reliance on the People's Republic of China for critical materials. H.R. 4521 will bolster U.S. leadership in research, innovation, and manufacturing by including the following items.

The Ways and Means Committee pulled together a comprehensive trade title that sets a path to a worker centered trade agenda. This includes pro-active trade enforcement reforms, which USW has supported, by the inclusion of H.R. 6121 – Representative Sewell and Johnson's trade law update, commonly known as the "Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0". This legislation will aid domestic manufacturers and workers in their ability to defend against illegally dumped and subsidized goods from entering the U.S. market, and put a better check on China's "Belt and Road Initiative".

The COMPETES Act also improves labor rights accountability in a reauthorization of the Generalized System Preference (GSP) program, ensuring that the tariff preferences we provide to economically developing countries uplift workers. The legislation also contains important bills that stops abuse of the United States' de minimis policy, and better tracks U.S. investment in China through the bipartisan

National Critical Capabilities Defense Act led by Representatives DeLauro, Pascrell, Spartz, and Fitzpatrick.

In an increasingly globalized economy, job training for workers who lost their jobs to overseas competition should be a priority, and H.R. 4521 improves and upgrades the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Without this reauthorization, workers who lose their job to Chinese competition do not have access to comprehensive job retraining. The bill also includes the National Apprenticeship Act of 2022.

The Energy and Commerce Committee's title will provide significant federal resources to build more resilient supply chains – incorporation of the bipartisan legislation led by Representatives Blunt-Rochester, Kinzinger, and Malinowski will reduce dependence on critical materials from China, encourage domestic manufacturing expansion with fair guardrails, and ensure that labor and management cooperate in the creation of good paying union jobs. When combined with provisions to increase the domestic solar manufacturing supply chain, which also has strong labor protection, workers will be better positioned to benefit from Federal aid to manufacturers. Improving our domestic supply chain in semi-conductors is also bolstered through the inclusion of the CHIPS act.

Bringing labor to the table was also a priority in the research and innovation title as the National Science Foundation language in COMPETES will ensure the inclusion of a worker's perspective through the participation of labor organizations and workforce training organizations.

Ensuring that the U.S. remains a global competitor as China continues its rise in the global economy requires labor, management, and government to work together, uplifting each other and guaranteeing federal investments are appropriately deployed. The America COMPETES Act of 2022 does this, and a vote against this bill is a vote to let our global economic competitors, like China, win at the expense of America workers. The USW urges you to support this legislation and fight for the enactment of its provisions into law.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Conway

International President