

IEEE-USA Legislative Update

November 30, 2011



Situation Overview

- Super Committee is dead
- Race to December 16th
- Democrats seem to be abandoning the House



Budget

- 2012 Appropriations process limping along
- Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill signed into law on November 18th
 - Department of Commerce R&D budget up 13.7%
 - NIST up 28.1% (non-R&D up .1%)
 - National Science Foundation R&D budget up 3.1%
 - Facilities down 20%
 - Total NSF budget up 2.5%
 - NASA R&D budget down 6.6%
 - Total NASA budget down 3.5%
- Best budget analysis can be found at www.aaas.org/spp/rd

Budget

- Department of Defense
 - House has passed a budget.
 - Senate Appropriations Committee has passed a budget
 - Not the same budget
 - 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 budgets
 - Down 1.3% in the House
 - Down 1.2% in the Senate
 - Navy R&D hit the hardest
- Trends:
 - Pure research budgets are strong
 - Applied research budgets are being cut
 - Facilities budgets are taking most of the hits

Budget

- Super Committee Fall-Out
- Long-term budget plan still needs to be devised
- Could involve further cuts to programs, if Congress can actually act on a plan
- Unemployment reauthorization due in mid-December
- CR expires on December 16th, which is supposed to be the last day of this year's term.

Energy Policy

- Spectrum article, “Nuclear Power After Fukushima” being sent to the House and Senate Energy Committees.

(<http://spectrum.ieee.org/static/fukushima-and-the-future-of-nuclear-power>)

- Not much movement on anything important

Immigration Reform

- Chaffetz Bill on suspension calendar today
 - H.R. 3021
 - Removes country caps
 - Reduces high-skill immigration



Immigration Reform

○ STEM Bill

- Rep. Lamar Smith drafting STEM bill which will create new EB visas for STEM graduates
- At least 25,000 new visas, maybe 55,000
- Issues to be worked out:
 - What is STEM?
 - Which universities can participate?
 - How are the new visas added?
- Deal needs to be cut with Sen. Schumer
 - Something for families

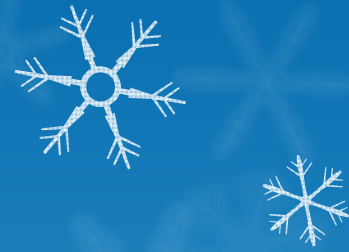
Immigration Reform

- This is the closest we have come to making positive changes in our high-skill immigration program in many years
- Grassroots pressure will be vital as we move forward
- Coalition of groups supporting this reform:
 - IEEE-USA
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - NAM
 - SIA
 - Intel
 - TI
 - ASEE
 - Many others



Small Business

- IEEE-USA Small Business Summit will be sponsored by Sen. Snowe (R-ME)
- Planned for December 9th
- Participants as of today:
 - USTR
 - DOC
 - Export / Import Bank
 - SBA



Other Things

- Dec. 6: Assessing the James Webb space telescope
- NSF report on participation in the STEM workforce
- IEEE-USA looking for active committee members
- Webinar on our Government Fellows program at 2:00



Questions?

Thank you

