

New Ideas

An informal exchange of policy proposals provided as a service to members of the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future.

NEW PROPOSAL FOR "FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING"

Many members of the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future have expressed interest in the development of high technology and manufacturing industries — areas frequently highlighted as foundations for America's long-term economic strength. The enclosed bill and related materials outline a proposal designed to aid in that development.

The JOINT MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES ACT (H.R. 423) suggests limited changes in antitrust law in order to foster joint manufacturing and shared research and development efforts. The proposal carefully balances traditional concerns about monopoly power and emerging concerns about the need for new forms of cooperative effort in the American economy. The innovative proposal enjoys bipartisan support, and many Clearinghouse members may prove interested.

The enclosed "dear colleague" letter and other materials offer extensive background about H.R. 423. Clearinghouse member Ron Wyden initially introduced the bill with 6 original cosponsors, and as of January 27, another 11 Members have joined as cosponsors of the bill. Steve Jennings (5-7797) can offer further information for interested Members and staff.

NEW IDEAS briefs help members of the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future draw attention to innovative proposals which have bipartisan support and which address emerging issues raised in Clearinghouse publications or events. If you have drafted legislation of this sort — particularly legislation which addresses any of the major areas highlighted in the enclosed Issue Outline — please feel free to call on the Clearinghouse for assistance with efforts to solicit cosponsors.