

The Campaign for Responsible Technology

The Campaign for Responsible Technology (CRT) unites diverse organizations to promote broader participation in the design and development of new technologies. In our experience, rapid technological change has too often led to adverse social, political and economic impacts.

We envision a world where technology better serves social and environmental needs and empowers communities and workers. For this vision to become a reality, vastly increased citizen participation is required to ensure the responsible development and implementation of new technologies.

SEMATECH

The US high technology manufacturing sector is being buffeted by fierce global economic competition. In response, the high tech industry has relentlessly sought to reduce taxes and weaken state and local controls governing economic development. Many high tech business leaders and some politicians are calling for government intervention to create industry-led, business-government partnerships to help improve America's high tech competitiveness.

A good illustration of such a partnership is SEMATECH--a high tech industry research consortium of 14 U.S.-owned semiconductor manufacturers, based in Austin,

Texas. The national Advisory Council on Federal Participation in SEMATECH notes that, "SEMATECH has become America's first large working example of an industry-led public-private partnership to promote national commercial objectives."

"We have abdicated power over our future to the experts. And, for the sake of our children, we must take that power back. Our society does not even have a forum to discuss the possible results of technological change....by failing to establish such a mechanism--a body chosen directly or indirectly by the people--we have placed the fate of the planet in the hands of the technical specialists who, however brilliant, are unqualified to decide questions of the common good."

Richard Goodwin, Former advisor to President's Kennedy and Johnson.

SEMATECH's mission is to build a smaller, faster microchip to challenge the growing success of the industry's Japanese-owned competitors. However, as a government-sponsored agency with a \$100 million annual taxpayer subsidy, SEMATECH must be held accountable to the needs of workers and communities. It's mission must reflect social goals--not just a private business agenda.

The Campaign for Responsible Technology (CRT) seeks to redefine SEMATECH's role as a major agency of industrial policy. We believe that SEMATECH can make a significant contribution helping to solve important economic, environmental and health problems facing electronics workers and their communities.

We have set up a meeting with SEMATECH for May 17, 1991

to discuss our concerns, and need letters of support for our campaign. Please write to SEMATECH's Director, William Spencer at 2706 Montopolis Drive, Austin TX 78741. Send copies of your letter to the Campaign for Responsible Technology.

CRT seeks to strengthen locally based organizing and help provide a larger national context for groups that are dealing with technology-related issues. CRT is building a national network of grass-roots organizations who recognize that many diverse, but related problems can only be overcome by extending democracy into the technological decision making process.

To contact the campaign, write to:
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