

# Electronics Industry Good Neighbor Campaign

a collaboration between the Campaign for Responsible Technology  
and the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice

1993

## Collaboration

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Please respond to offices  
checked above

June 21, 1993

Hon. William Clinton, President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Clinton,

Investment in technology--and US competitiveness--  
are important priorities of your administration.  
Indeed, in your recent technology policy position  
paper, you stated that "technology is the engine  
of economic growth."

When you unveiled your new technology initiative  
in San Jose last February, you emphasized that the  
"most important measure of success will be our  
ability to make a difference in the lives of the  
American people, to harness technology so that it  
improves the quality of their lives...."

Surely you are aware that new technology has not  
improved the quality of everyone's life. In fact,  
many workers and communities have been adversely  
affected: Jobs have been eliminated, workers  
displaced and skills eroded. New occupational  
health hazards have developed while on-the-job  
stress has increased. And, as technology has  
transformed the global economy, community  
development has become increasingly uneven.

A major cornerstone of your technology policy  
calls upon industry, academia, and government to  
form new partnerships to further the development  
of new technologies that would help revitalize our  
economy. As an example, you have pointed to  
SEMATECH--the semiconductor industry's  
manufacturing consortium--as a "model for Federal  
consortia funded to advance other critical  
technologies."

Hon. William Clinton

But if SEMATECH is going to be cited as a national industrial policy model, it needs to be more responsive to the needs of semiconductor workers, the communities where semiconductor facilities are located and the environment. For several years now, the **Campaign for Responsible Technology (CRT)** and the **Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice** have sought to make SEMATECH's mission reflect broad social goals--not just a private business agenda. In 1991, when we initially presented this concept to SEMATECH, the consortia's management dismissed our concerns, citing the need to "beat the Japanese."

Not discouraged, last year we successfully persuaded Congress to expand SEMATECH's mission; mandating ten percent of their funding for research on environmentally safe manufacturing methods. Congress also specified that SEMATECH consult with labor and environmental groups on the disposition of these funds.

When we attended an environmental consultation with SEMATECH in April of this year, we requested SEMATECH provide detailed budget materials and specific goals and timetables for the \$10 million environmental research program.

Secondly, we explained that it was increasing important for affected workers, community organizations and environmental advocates to be formally included in SEMATECH's policy decisions. To that end, we suggested that SEMATECH create a national citizen's advisory council and put representatives from environmental, community and labor organizations on their board.


The organizations participating in this campaign are clearly working to "harness technology so that it improves the quality of their lives." Yet once again, SEMATECH has denied our request for specific timetables and budget data-- and most importantly, our desire to be actively involved in the decision making concerning the design and development of new semiconductor technology. (Please see the attached correspondence between the EIGNC and SEMATECH.)


That is why we are writing to request your assistance and support. We would like your support for inclusion of community, labor and environmental representatives on SEMATECH's board and a national SEMATECH citizen's advisory council. Further, we would like SEMATECH to provide us with the detailed budget and specific timetables that we requested.


We are requesting that you designate an individual


from your office to meet with representatives of the Electronics Industry Good Neighbor Campaign in Washington in the near future, and to assist us in achieving these policy changes at SEMATECH.


Sincerely,


  
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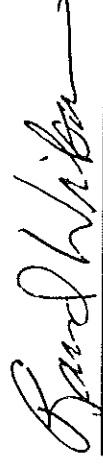
  
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cc: attached distribution list

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