

TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
AVIATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SCIENCE
RESEARCH
ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY,
AND STANDARDS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

REPLY TO:
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
 1229 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690

1 BRICKYARD DRIVE
SUITE 201
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
(309) 663-7049

655 WEST LINCOLN
UNIT 8
CHARLESTON, IL 61920
(217) 348-6759

1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62863
(618) 262-8719

June 12, 2006

Emily DeRocco
Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Ms. DeRocco,

I want to bring to your attention an especially innovative marriage of technology and the training of our youth that bridges the "skills gap" that you articulated so well in your April speech at the University of Louisville.

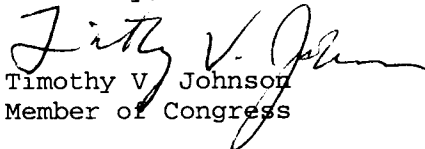
The work is spearheaded by Mark Smith, an industrial technology teacher at Shiloh High School in the tiny town of Hume, which is in my District. Mr. Smith's students have pioneered processes used in the manufacture of luxury eyewear and jewelry products made and marketed by a company, iWood ecodesign, that, coincidentally, is based in Louisville.

Mr. Smith has also partnered with companies in the wood manufacturing industry to explore applications for abrasives, glues, veneers as well as tools themselves. Students are interacting with company executives with web cameras and web conferencing facilitated by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, also part of my District.

These efforts have proven productive not only for leading national companies but obviously for the students and their futures too. Technology truly is the currency of the national and international economy and a tiny high school in a tiny town in rural Illinois is proving it will not be left behind.

Please continue your good work and keep in mind the Shilohs of our country.

Sincerely,


Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress