

It's about jobs

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Letter to the Editor

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I want to urge Sen. Ben Nelson, a co-sponsor of the 2007 America COMPETES Act, and Sen. Mike Johanns to support the reauthorization of this legislation that is critical for our future quality of life and economic well-being.

It boosts scientific funding at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and strengthens math and science programs in our city. It also authorizes the funding levels for our nation's science agencies.

By voting for this reauthorization, the senators will demonstrate that they understand that our country has been the world's leader in research and technology precisely because we have supported basic research in the past and must continue to do so.

Scientific research is about jobs, not just the ones it creates today, but the millions it will create in the future through technological innovation. Funding from the COMPETES Act directly supports the training of Nebraska residents in high-tech skills at UNL that our state needs for future economic growth.

I look forward to Senate re-authorization of this very important legislation.