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Tanya Das
1723 Hillcrest Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Dear Tanya:

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the FIRST Robotics Competition Program. I appreciate you taking the time to contact me and am pleased to address your concerns.

As you mentioned, the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) program was founded in 1989 to allow high school students to work with professional engineers from the industry in order to gain "hands-on" experience in the engineering field. Local businesses then sponsor high school teams in which the students and engineers work together to construct robots in preparation for a competition.

Like you, I believe programs such as the FIRST Robotics Competition help foster confidence and scientific knowledge among our nation's young people, and ultimately increase the advanced study of subjects such as math, physics, and engineering. We must encourage the ongoing interest of children in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology and prepare them to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees and careers in these areas.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. For more information regarding my position on issues and activity in Congress I encourage you to visit my website, www.house.gov/knollenberg.

Sincerely,



Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress

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