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Today, Morry B. Markowitz – President of the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA) issued the following statement.

Ceding America's Fuel Cell Manufacturing Leadership through Congressional Inaction – Congress, Get the ITC Phase Out Resolved

"After a year-long period of uncertainty and Congressional inaction, the fuel cell Investment Tax Credit (ITC) is set to expire at the end of the year. Last December, Congress omitted all technologies except for solar out of the list of energy technologies receiving an ITC extension, creating an uneven playing field and associated market distortion. At this point, it is irrelevant if this action was inadvertent or not. It has to get fixed before Congress adjourns for vacation.

Congress' inaction this year has negatively impacted the industry, and, if it continues, will cost the U.S. its leadership in American fuel cell manufacturing and many of the good-paying American jobs that go with it.

Recent announcements of layoffs are a preview of what might happen if this is not resolved. We are 10,000 workers strong across the country with a major supplier base in the Midwest. At a time when voters overwhelmingly voted with their top priority being their economic future, why would we risk any losses? It will be Congress' job to look these manufacturing and service workers in the eye and explain why they didn't solve an eminently solvable problem.

Already, China and other foreign investors have approached American companies with plans to pick up where we left off and they are providing big incentives to do so. Our CEOs have committed to a phase out to the entire Congressional leadership and all its members. They have also put it in writing.

To avoid ceding American leadership in fuel cell manufacturing, Congress must act before they leave town this month."

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About the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association

The Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA) represents the leading companies and organizations that are advancing innovative, clean, safe, and reliable energy technologies. FCHEA drives support and provides a consistent industry voice to regulators and policymakers. Our educational efforts promote the environmental and economic benefits of fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies. Visit us online at www.fchea.org.