

## OSA/MRS Congressional Fellow to Work for Rep. Markey


Michal Freedhoff, the 1996–1997 OSA/MRS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow, is to work for U.S. Congressional Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), beginning this Fall. Jointly sponsored by the Optical Society of America and the Materials Research Society for a one-year term, Freedhoff will work on Markey's staff as a consultant on scientific and technical matters.

Markey began his service as representative of the 7th district of Massachusetts on November 2, 1976 and is currently a senior member of the House Committee on Commerce, and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials. He is also on the House Subcommittee on Energy and

Power which expects much activity in the next Congress concerning a bill to deregulate electric utilities. Markey is co-sponsoring H.R. 3172, the Clean Power Production Act, which instructs the Environmental Protection Agency to assess the environmental impact expected to result from electric utility restructuring, including proposed changes in the regulations of public utility.

Instrumental in crafting a bill overhauling the telecommunications law which ultimately passed on February 1, 1996 as S 652 under another sponsor, Markey continues to be active on telecommunication issues associated with trade, education, and satellite communications and the internet. Freedhoff anticipates involvement with telecommunications issues but expects her primary concerns will be with the deregulation of electric utilities.

Markey's other scientific interests include education and the U.S. ballistic missile defense policy. He is the sponsor of H.R. 3648, a bill to reestablish the National Science Scholars Program, which has been referred to the Subcommittee on Basic Science. This bill is to award \$5,000 scholarships to students pursuing education in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering. These students would then be given priority consideration for summer employment in federally funded research and development centers. In efforts to maintain the U.S. commitment to the 1972 ABM Treaty, Markey is co-sponsoring H.R. 983, a bill to further establish the ballistic missile defense policy of the United States, which was introduced on February 16, 1995 as the Ballistic Missile Defense Act of 1995.

The OSA/MRS congressional fellowship was established in 1995 to open avenues of communication between scientists and federal legislators. Along with obtaining her MS and PhD degrees in physical chemistry from the University of Rochester, Freedhoff has been involved in policy and public outreach endeavors. In accepting her position with Markey, she is leaving the American Institute of Physics where she has researched funding sources of significant physics discoveries that have resulted in quantifiable benefits to society. Her set of glossy, color flyers called "Physics Success Stories" have been made available for physicists who wish to visit their members of Congress. The success stories have been used in 150–200 such visits. See the October 1996 issue of *MRS Bulletin* (page 74) for more on Freedhoff's fellowship appointment. 

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