



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the member societies of the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (JPBM), we write to express our support for the nomination of Dr. Eric Lander to be Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

The unprecedented challenges facing the nation demand a reinvigorated science and technology enterprise that can only be developed and implemented through strong leadership. As the federal government’s most senior convening authority on science and technology issues, OSTP will be essential to that effort.

Dr. Lander is exceptionally qualified to lead OSTP. His tenure as co-chair of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology renders him well-versed in the development of science policy at the highest levels of the Executive Branch. In addition, his leadership on the Human Genome Project gives him a unique firsthand perspective on how the federal government can effectively leverage the national research enterprise as well as international partnerships to enable breakthrough science. Trained as a mathematician, he has promoted collaborative and cross-disciplinary research throughout his career and has shown himself to be a talented science communicator.

His many honors include the MacArthur Fellowship, the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the AAAS Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, and elected membership in both the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Lander’s extensive experience as a researcher and in science policy make him a decidedly qualified nominee to lead OSTP and help set federal science priorities. We urge you to support a quick confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

Ruth Charney
President, AMS

Robert L. Santos
President, ASA

Jennifer J. Quinn
President, MAA

Susanne C. Brenner
President, SIAM

JPBM consists of the [American Mathematical Society](#), the [American Statistical Association](#), the [Mathematical Association of America](#), and the [Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics](#). The four societies have nearly 90,000 members, and the Board represents the mathematics and statistics community in policy discussions.