

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

CC: Chairs and Ranking Members House and Senate Appropriations Committees

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Reid, McConnell, and Boehner:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we commend you for your leadership in swiftly formulating the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and strongly support your efforts to ensure that this important legislation contains bold investments in STEM education and science research and development that will help both stimulate our economy and provide for the long-term competitiveness of the American workforce. We are hopeful that Congress will expeditiously debate and enact this vitally important bill.

As you know, our Coalition is composed of a diverse range of organizations from all sectors of the workforce, including knowledge workers, researchers, educators, teacher educators, scientists, engineers, technicians, and representatives from the business community. We believe that excellence in STEM education at all levels, among all populations, is vital to our nation's short- and long-term economic prosperity, global competitiveness and security.

There are a number of provisions in the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that demonstrate a strong commitment to strengthening our nation's STEM education pipeline, including:

- \$3 billion in additional funding for the National Science Foundation, including:
 - \$60 million for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program
 - \$40 million for the Math and Science Partnership Program

- \$1 billion to expand, modernize, and repair research equipment shared by institutions of higher education and other scientists, engineers, and researchers to assure the adequate preparation of the next generation of STEM graduates who select careers in teaching and other critical areas
- \$140 billion in additional funding for the Department of Education, including:
 - A provision encouraging Local Education Agencies to spend a portion of the \$14 billion allocated in the bill for K-12 school construction activities for the “modernization, renovation, or repair of science and engineering laboratory facilities”
 - \$1 billion for classroom education technology, including computer and science labs and teacher technology training
 - \$100 million through Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grants to recruit new teachers through alternate and traditional training routes to meet the shortage of math and science teachers
 - Substantial additional funding at the Department of Energy, NIH, NASA, NOAA, NIST, and the US Geological Survey that will help modernize facilities across the nation, increase their research capacity, and therefore assure the next generation of well-prepared educators, scientists, and engineers in the STEM fields

Further, to enable more children to compete in this global economy, we are hopeful that a renewed focus on quality STEM education will be considered when additional Title I and IDEA dollars are spent at the local level.

We are pleased that Congress is taking action to live up to many of the promises established by the *America COMPETES Act*, the *Higher Education Opportunity Act* and other legislation that has established STEM education as a top national priority. We look forward to working with you to keep our nation competitive and to swiftly enact this legislation.

If we can provide you any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

3e Institute of West Chester University of PA
Aerospace Industries Association
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Museum of Natural History

American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Statistical Association
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association for Computing Machinery
Association for Science Teacher Education
Association of Science Materials Centers
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce
Biological Sciences Curriculum Study
Biophysical Society
Biotechnology Institute
Business-Higher Education Forum
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Center for Minority Achievement in Science and Technology
Chicago Educational Publishing
Computing Research Association
Council of Undergraduate Research
DC Environmentors
DV Crossroads--Deer Valley Unified School District
EAST Initiative
Education Development Center, Inc.
Engineers Without Borders-USA
ETS
Exploratorium
Hamilton County/Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Science Excellence
Hands on Science Partnership
IEEE-USA
Information in Place, Inc.
International Technology Education Association
Iowa Math and Science Coalition
Knowledge Alliance
Maryland Science Center
Math for America
Museum of Science and Industry
Museum of Science, Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM)
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Defense Industrial Association
National Education Association
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Science Education Leadership Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Natural Science Collections Alliance
New York State Technology Education Association
Ohio Technology Education Association
Project H.E.L.P.

Project Lead the Way
SAE International
Society for Research in Child Development
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Society of Women Engineers
SPIE — The International Society for Optical Engineering
STEMES
TechNet
The Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies
The Coalition for STEM in Massachusetts
Triangle Coalition
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Vernier Software & Technology
Wisdom Tools LLC