

July 5, 2006

The Honorable Sherwood Boehlert
Chairman, House Science Committee
2246 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Ranking Member, House Science Committee
2304 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20514

Dear Chairman Boehlert and Ranking Member Gordon:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we would like to express our great appreciation for your bold leadership on behalf of science and math education. We thank you and the entire membership of the Science Committee for unanimously reporting H.R. 5358, the Science and Mathematics Education For Competitiveness Act. This legislation will have a great impact on teacher preparation, will strengthen and expand the STEM teacher workforce, and attract more of our best and brightest students into the STEM fields.

Thanks to your leadership and dedicated efforts, many in Washington and throughout the country have come to recognize the importance of STEM education in ensuring future American prosperity and competitiveness in the global economy. We applaud your commitment to supporting the programs of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate. We also commend your repeated requests that the federal government step up its commitment to providing funding for programs in the EHR Directorate programs that foster improvements in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, continuing education, vocational, and informal STEM education.

The STEM Education Coalition is composed of a diverse range of groups representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our Coalition works aggressively to raise awareness in Congress, the Administration, and other organizations about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century. We also support robust federal investments in basic scientific research to inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.

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

Acoustical Society of America
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Physical Society
ASEE Engineering Deans Council
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association of Science-Technology Centers
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Business Higher Education Forum
Chicago Educational Publishing
Council of State Science Supervisors
EAST Initiative
Ecological Society of America
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Exploratorium
Federation of Materials Societies
IEEE-USA
Institute of Food Technologists
International Technology Education Association
Johns Hopkins University
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council for Community Education Partnerships
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Association
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Science Teachers Association
Optical Society of America
Society of Women Engineers
SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering
STEM Education Society (STEMES)
Triangle Coalition