

# STEM Education Coalition

and Mathematics



September 6, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
361-A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

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

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, thank you for your leadership in passing the *America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act*. The *America COMPETES Act* sets out a bold, bi-partisan, and broadly supported vision for strengthening the STEM education pipeline at the K-12 and university levels by expanding proven programs for teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development, by helping to attract more of the brightest young minds from every part of our society into the STEM fields, and by devoting substantial resources to address a range of high-need educational areas.

Throughout our nation's history, American economic and technological strength has been built upon a large and highly-skilled domestic workforce of scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians – the STEM workforce. Our Coalition works to strengthen the STEM pipeline by vigorously supporting the educational mission of the National Science Foundation and advocating for a strong STEM focus at the Department of Education and other agencies. We are very pleased that the *America COMPETES Act* has done a great deal to further both of these goals. We also greatly appreciate this landmark legislation's focus on increasing the diversity of the STEM workforce by directing resources to high-need schools and populations.

The STEM Education Coalition comprises a diverse range of organizations representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our Coalition works to raise awareness in Congress and throughout the Executive Branch 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.

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*  
*ACT, Inc.*  
*American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education*  
*American Association of Physics Teachers*  
*American Association of Physicists in Medicine*  
*American Association of University Women*  
*American Chemical Society*  
*American Geological Institute*  
*American Institute of Biological Sciences*  
*American Institute of Physics*  
*American Mathematical Society*  
*American Physical Society*  
*American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.*  
*ASME Center for Public Awareness*  
*Association for Computing Machinery*  
*Association for Women in Science*  
*Campaign for Environmental Literacy*  
*Chesapeake Bay Foundation*  
*Computing Research Association*  
*Design Science, Inc.*  
*The East Initiative*  
*Ecological Society of America*  
*Education Development Center, Inc.*  
*Engineers Without Borders*  
*Exploratorium*  
*Hands On Science Partnership*  
*IEEE-USA*  
*Institute of Food Technologists*  
*ITEA*  
*Knowledge Alliance*  
*Museum of Science, Boston*  
*National Center for Technology Literacy*  
*National Center for Women and Information Technology*  
*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics*  
*National Science Teachers Association*  
*National Society of Professional Engineers*  
*The New England Council*  
*The Ohio Academy of Science*  
*Project Lead the Way*  
*SAE International*  
*Science Companion*  
*Society of Women Engineers*  
*STEMES*  
*Triangle Coalition*

**Cc:**

Sen. Jeff Bingaman  
Sen. Pete Domenici

Sen. Edward Kennedy  
Sen. Michael Enzi

Sen. Daniel Inouye  
Sen. Ted Stevens  
Rep. Bart Gordon,  
Rep. Ralph Hall  
Rep. George Miller  
Rep. Howard McKeon