

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

January 26, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing to respectfully urge you to make investments in STEM Education programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Education (DoEd) a priority as Congress completes action on the FY 2007 appropriation bills.

Our Coalition strongly supports the mission of NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate and its efforts to foster improvements in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, continuing education, vocational, and informal STEM education. We also want to emphasize our support for the continued strong focus on STEM education programs at the Department of Education. We believe it is vitally important that Congress make funding for Math and Science Partnerships at NSF and DoEd and other innovative STEM education programs at these two agencies a high priority as you complete the FY 2007 appropriations process.

While we recognize that these are difficult budgetary times, a strong consensus is emerging in the business, education, and scientific communities that our nation's future competitiveness in the global marketplace is directly tied to the ability of our schools to prepare children in the STEM fields. We are pleased that, over the last two years, many other business leaders, educators, scientists, and policymakers have joined us in calling for stepped-up investments targeted at improving STEM education.

The STEM Education Coalition is composed of 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 aggressively 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.

Please contact James Brown at 202.872.6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703.312.9214 if we can provide you with any additional information or assistance.

Respectfully,

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Council on Education
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Physics
American Physical Society
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association of Educational Publishers
Association of Science-Technology Centers
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Business Higher Education Forum
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Council on Undergraduate Research
EAST Initiative
Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)
Engineers Without Borders - USA
Exploratorium
IEEE-USA
Institute of Food Technologists
JETS
Marine Technology Society
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Science Teachers Association
The New England Council
Optical Society of America
Project Lead the Way
Society of Women Engineers
STEM Ed Society