

May 30, 2008

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Ranking Member
Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

Our organizations applaud your leadership in crafting a bipartisan, comprehensive, and carefully considered bill to reauthorize the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). The National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2008 (H.R. 5940) would improve the coordination of efforts across the federal government to foster the development of the important field of nanotechnology which holds great promise towards addressing many of today's societal challenges in the areas of health, energy, manufacturing and our environment.

The new and emerging field of nanotechnology will require bright young minds to further develop and shape the science behind nanotechnology, thus paving the way towards meaningful careers for future generations and helping to keep our nation competitive in the increasingly technological global economy.

We are very pleased that this legislation establishes a new Nanotechnology Education Partnership initiative as part of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Math and Science Partnership program. The NSF, as the lead federal agency for fostering improvements in U.S. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and a major participant in the NNI, is perfectly suited to play a strong role in cultivating nanotechnology education partnerships between K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, and industry stakeholders. We also greatly appreciate the emphasis of this new educational initiative on the preparation of K-12 teachers in nanotechnology and nanoscience principles and the integration of nanotechnology-related concepts into educational materials and instructional curricula.

This legislation will further U.S. nanotechnology and nanoscience leadership by identifying research in areas of national importance, encouraging federal-state-university partnerships, and establishing a process to ensure that research facilities have the equipment and operating funding necessary to support the needed research.

Our organizations share the belief that in order to maintain U.S. leadership in nanotechnology, our nation must make a long-term investment in building a strong educational pipeline of students who are both inspired and prepared to undertake the nanotechnology careers of the future. We stand ready to work with you to advance this legislation in the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

AeA (American Electronics Association)
American Chemical Society
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Physical Society
American Psychological Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
Association for Science Teacher Education
Association of Science-Technology Centers
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Computing Research Association
Council on Undergraduate Research
Exploratorium
IBM Corp.
IEEE-USA
Institute of Food Technologists
International Technology Education Association
Materials Research Society
Minerals, Metals and Materials Society
National Center for Optics and Photonics Education
National Science Teachers Association
Northwestern University
Project Lead the Way
Semiconductor Industry Association
STEMES
The Pennsylvania State University
Triangle Coalition
University of Pittsburgh
Vernier Software & Technology