

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

October 10, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
509 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
528 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Frist and Reid:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, thank you for your leadership in improving STEM education and for introducing the National Competitiveness Investment Act (S. 3936).

We applaud your efforts to craft a bipartisan bill that reflects many of the excellent STEM education proposals based on recommendations from the *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* report, the National Innovation Initiative, the American Competitiveness Initiative, and proposed legislation from the several committees.

For well over a year now business and education leaders, policymakers, and other influential voices have insisted on changes to STEM education. The Senate has heard these calls to action.

If enacted the National Competitiveness Investment Act will vastly change the teaching and learning of K-12 science, math, and technology education by reforming pre-service education for science and math educators; providing much needed content knowledge to in-service teachers; strengthening the mathematics provided to our youngest students; encouraging more high school students to take upper level courses; aligning the needs of employers and the military with P-16 education; and expanding grants that will encourage talented STEM graduates to become teachers.

We also appreciate your support of the National Science Foundation education directorate. Our Coalition strongly supports the mission of NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and its efforts to 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.

The STEM Education Coalition looks forward to working with your offices in moving this bill forward. If we can provide you any additional information on STEM education, 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 Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Society of Civil Engineers
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
Chicago Educational Publishing
Computing Research Association
Council on Undergraduate Research
East Initiative
Ecological Society of America
Education Development Center
Engineers Without Borders—USA
Exploratorium
IEEE
International Technology Education Association
Johns Hopkins University
Magnet Schools of America
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association

*New England Council
Ohio Technology Education Association
Project Lead the Way
Society of Women Engineers
Triangle Coalition
The University of Kansas*