K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Education Coalition

Acoustical Society of America
AeA
American Association of Engineering Societies
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Applied Materials, Inc.
Arizona Alliance for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education
Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics
Center for Chemistry Education, Miami University
CompTIA's
Council of State Science Supervisors
CPO Science
Cree
Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education
Delta Education, L.L.C.
Ecological Society of America
Educators Publishing Service
EFJ, Inc.
Future Scientists and Engineers of America
Hewlett-Packard
IEEE-USA
Information Technology Association of America
International Technology Education Association
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Ohio Academy of Science
Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Optical Society of America
SAE International
School Science and Mathematics Association
Science Education Foundation of Indiana, Inc.
SciMathMN
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society of Women Engineers
South Arkansas Mathematics/Science Center at Henderson State University
State Supervisors for Technology Education
StorageTek
Technology Students Association
Texas Instruments
The Business Roundtable
Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education
Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition

August 29, 2003

The Honorable Christopher Bond
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We respectfully urge you to support three key programs authorized under the National Science Foundation (NSF) Act of 2001 that will improve K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

We urge you to support the budget request of $200 million for the NSF Math & Science Partnership (MSP), the authorized amounts of $20 million for the Noyce Scholarship Program and $30 million for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP).

The MSPs bring science, math and engineering departments at higher education institutions together with K-12 math and science teachers and other interested partners to address necessary STEM education improvements. Over 20 partnerships were created in the first year of the program, yet many are waiting in the wings for funding.

The Noyce Scholarship Program provides incentives for math and science majors to pursue a teaching career. This will build the necessary corps of highly qualified science and math teachers. The STEP or 'Tech Talent' program funds innovative higher education programs that increase the number graduates in STEM related degrees.

Improving the math and science skills of our students is essential to maintaining our technological leadership in our global economy. Demand for scientists and engineers will grow as the economy expands and as the current population of baby-boomers reaches retirement age. The need for a technologically literate population is essential for our economy and our national security.

We believe these programs will work to develop the workforce of the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Burgio Curtis at 202.785.7385 or Heather Hill at 202.872.4467.