

**Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition**  
www.stemedcoalition.org

June 5, 2006

The Honorable Sherwood Boehlert  
Chair, Committee on Science  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Boehlert:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing to thank you for your leadership with the Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act. This bill will strengthen STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) at a time when math and science education are a central focus of a vigorous national debate about future U.S. capacity for innovation and global competitiveness. 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.

We intend to work closely with the Science Committee in the coming weeks and months to strengthen this legislation and ensure its success in passing the Congress this year. We are also hopeful that the eventual legislation will reflect many of the excellent STEM education proposals based on recommendations of the National Academies, the Council on Competitiveness, and other august bodies that have been offered by House Members on both sides of the aisle during the past several months.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

A strong consensus has emerged 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 educational institutions to prepare students for the technological economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act reflects this consensus. We must act as a nation to encourage more of our students to study and succeed in STEM fields, strengthen teacher preparation and recruit more

teachers with STEM backgrounds – the proposed Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act will take a clear step toward rising to this challenge.

We applaud your support of STEM education programs at the NSF and other agencies and pledge to support the Science Committee as they work to advance this legislation. 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.

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