June 20, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America, strongly endorses three measures to be reported soon by the House Committee on Science – H.R. 5356, H.R. 5357 and H.R. 5358 — as well as the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative.

These bills would authorize appropriations for math and science education, teacher training and early-career research at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. We ask that this legislation move expeditiously to the House floor for consideration and passage.

ASTRA has supported the goals expressed in these bills since its founding six years ago. We are encouraged by a renewed public emphasis linking federal investment in basic research for the physical, mathematical and computational sciences and engineering with U.S. innovation, competitiveness and our national security.

It is our hope that a bipartisan consensus can be maintained in advancing a pragmatic agenda for our innovation future.

If you need further information about ASTRA or our positions, please contact our Legislative Task Force Co-Chairmen Anthony Pitagno (American Chemical Society) at a_pitagno@acs.org; Christopher Mustain (IBM) at mustainc@us.ibm.com or ASTRA Executive Director Robert Boege at r_boege@adelphia.net

Signed,
Agilent Technologies
The Aluminum Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Electronics Association (AeA)
American Geological Institute
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society (APS)
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
Applied Materials, Inc
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of University Research Parks
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Battelle
BellSouth
Business-Higher Education Forum
Business Roundtable
Carnegie Mellon University
Center for Accelerating Innovation
Center for National Software Studies
Columbia University
Committee for NSLS – II
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association (COMPTIA)
Cornell University
Council on Competitiveness
Duke University
DuPont
EAST Initiative
Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA)
Energy Sciences Coalition
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Exploratorium
Federation of American Scientists
Federation of Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
General Motors
Georgia Institute of Technology
Hewlett-Packard
IBM
Indiana University
Information Technology Association of America
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers — USA (IEEE-USA)
Intel
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
Microsoft
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC)
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM)
National Semiconductor Corporation
National Science Teachers Association
New England Council
New York Structural Biology Center
New York University
Northern Illinois University
Northrop Grumman
Northwestern University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Ohio State University
Optical Society of America (OSA)
Procter & Gamble
Purdue University
Rutgers University
The Science Coalition
Supporters of American Competitiveness Initiative as of June 20, 2006

- Sea Grant Association
- Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI)
- Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
- Software and Information Industry Association
- Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
- Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA)
- Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh
- SPIE — The International Society for Optical Engineering
- Stanford University
- STEM Education Society
- STEMES (STEM Education Society)
- Stony Brook University
- Syracuse University
- TechNet
- Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Instruments
- Tulane University
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)
- University of California
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois, UC
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas System
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Yale University
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- wTe Corporation