

# 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 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.

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-USA*  
*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*