September 2, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rush Holt
1214 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Representative Holt:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing to thank you for your support of a $5 million increase in funding for the Department of Education’s (DOE) Math and Science Partnership program (MSP). Our Coalition has been a longtime advocate for the expansion of the MSP program – an integral element of federal efforts to improve STEM education – toward the $450 million level authorized for this program by the No Child Left Behind Act. Thanks to your hard work on this issue, the $5 million increase in funding provided by the House, if adopted by Congress, would be the first funding increase for this critical program since 2006, bringing the investment in the MSP program to $184 million per year.

The results of this program justify this increased investment. Seventy one percent of teachers participating in a MSP project who were assessed in mathematics showed significant gains in their content knowledge and 80 percent of teachers who were assessed in science showed significant gains in their content knowledge. These teachers improved their pedagogy and teaching strategies, provided a positive classroom culture, and increased relevance and rigor in their classroom instruction. According to the Department of Education, this led to an average 6 percent gain in students’ mathematics proficiency from the previous year’s assessment, and an average of a 7 percent gain in science proficiency from the previous assessment. This is twice the improvement rate of the national average.

The STEM Education Coalition is composed of a diverse range of organizations representing all sectors of the technological workforce—from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers and technicians. Our Coalition works to raise awareness in Congress and throughout the Executive Branch about the critical role that STEM education—both form and informal—plays in enabling the United States to remain the economic and technology leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century.

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,

Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Coalition (AMSTEC)  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Association of Physicians in Medicine  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Chemical Society  
American Geological Institute  
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.  
American Statistical Association  
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States  
ASME Center for Public Awareness  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
Association of Science Materials Centers  
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce  
Biotechnology Institute  
BSCS  
California Healthcare Institute  
Carroll University  
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies  
Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness (CASMIC)  
Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)  
Center for Mathematics and Science Education Teaching and Technology at John Central Career and Technical School, Erie, PA  
College of Saint Elizabeth  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
CSTEM  
Deer Valley Crossroads  
East Coast National Science Decathlon  
EAST Initiative  
Ecological Society of America  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Engineers Without Borders-USA  
ETA/Cuisenaire  
Exploratorium  
Funutation Tekademy LLC  
Georgian Court University  
Hamilton County/Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Science Excellence
IEEE-USA  
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
In Reach, Inc.  
International Technology Education Association  
JETS  
Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA)  
Louisiana Association of Science Leaders (LASL)  
Maryland Science Center  
McGraw-Hill  
Museum of Science, Boston  
NASA STEM School Administrators Association  
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity  
National Center for Science Education  
National Center for Technological Literacy  
National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT)  
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Education Association  
National Girls Collaborative Project  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
North Carolina Mathematics Science Education Network Pre-College Program, Center for Mathematics & Science Education  
Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition  
Ontic Education, LLC  
Pathways to Science  
PBS  
Platform Shoes Forum  
Project Exploration  
Project Tomorrow  
SACNAS  
Science Companion  
Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS)  
SPIE – The International Society for Optics and Photonics  
STEMES  
TechNet  
Technology Student Association  
Tennessee Science Teachers Association  
University of Arkansas  
University of Kentucky  
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown  
University of Southern Mississippi, Center for Science and Mathematics Education  
Urban STEM Strategy Group  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Vernier Software & Technology