



May 1, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

CC: House and Senate Appropriations Committee Members

Dear Chairman Inouye and Rogers and Ranking Members Cochran and Dicks:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year 2013, the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition strongly urges you to ensure that Congress consider STEM education as a national priority when considering the budgets for the U. S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and other federal agencies engaged in providing resources for educators, students, and researchers.

Over the past decade, Congress has demonstrated enduring and bipartisan support for federal investments in STEM education – a commitment that has transcended changes in Administration and party leadership. We recognize you are dealing with unprecedented fiscal challenges, but it is absolutely critical that federal investments in STEM education remain a national priority.

As you consider federal budget priorities, we hope you will consider the following recommendations:

- **We strongly support the education research and innovation mission of the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate.** We also urge the Committee to encourage continued collaborations between EHR and the Department of Education, broader dissemination of EHR research discoveries amongst the education community, and to ensure that proposed changes to EHR's informal science programs do not compromise NSF's commitment to supporting innovation in the out-of-school space.
- **We strongly support higher prioritization for funding of STEM-focused programs at the U.S. Department of Education.** We have long supported the Department's Math and Science Partnerships (MSP) program, which has been proposed for consolidation within the Administration's new Effective Teaching and Learning: STEM initiative. Until this new program is authorized by Congress, we urge the Committee to continue to support the MSP program.

- We recognize that a number of other federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, NASA, NOAA, and others, operate significant STEM programs. As the Committee looks at the overall federal investment in STEM education, **we encourage you to support STEM-related efforts at federal mission agencies that are focused on improving student achievement in STEM subjects with positive results and that are focused on encouraging partnerships between public and private sectors education initiatives.**

We also encourage the Committee to continue to support comprehensive and strategic efforts to coordinate, evaluate, and review *all* federal STEM programs on a regular basis to ensure that effective programs are scaled up and that underperforming programs are improved or eliminated.

Empowering U.S. schools to provide our children with the STEM knowledge and problem-solving skills they will need to land the best, most innovative – and highest paying and most secure – jobs of the future is a critical aspect in supporting an American economic recovery. We hope you will maintain STEM education as a continued bipartisan national priority, even in this time of great fiscal concern. Our future depends on it.

Please contact James Brown, Executive Director of the Coalition, at (202) 400-2192 or jfbrown@stemedcoalition.org with questions, comments, or for further information.

Respectfully,



Afterschool Alliance

Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies

American Association of Physics Teachers

American Chemical Society

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping

American Geophysical Union

American Institute of Physics

American Physical Society (APS)

American Society for Engineering Education

American Society of Agronomy

American Statistical Association

ASME

Association for Computing Machinery

Association of Science Materials Centers

ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America

Cable in the Classroom

Campaign for Environmental Literacy

Center for Excellence in Education

Clemson Engineering and Technology Laboratory

Committee for the Advancement of STEM Specialty Schools

Crop Science Society of America

DEBLAR & Associates

EcoCAD Design Group, LLP

Education Development Center, Inc.

Groups listed in italics are members of the Coalition's Leadership Council

Hands on Science Partnership

IEEE-USA

LearnOnLine, Inc

MIT, Inc. (Museum Institutes for Teaching Science)

Museum of Life and Science, Durham, NC

NACFAM

NARST, A Worldwide Organization for Improving Science Teaching and Learning Through Research (formerly, the National Association for Research in Science Teaching)

National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC)

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Defense Industrial Association

National Institute of Building Sciences

National Science Teachers Association

National Society of Professional Engineers

National Society of Professional Engineers

National Society of Professional Surveyors

NSELA, National Science Education Leadership Association

Organizations listed in italics are members of the Coalition's Leadership Council

Pico Turbine International, Inc

School Science and Mathematics Association

Society of Women Engineers

Soil Science Society of America

South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics & Science

Technology Student Association

The Ocean Project

UTeaChattanooga at the University of TN at Chattanooga

Vernier Software & Technology

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STEM Education Coalition

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