



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,



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
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
Crop Science Society of America
DEBLAR & Associates
EcoCAD Design Group, LLP
Education Development Center, Inc.
Hands on Science Partnership
IEEE-USA
LearnOnLine, Inc
MITS, 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 Surveyors
NSELA, National Science Education Leadership Association
Pico Turbine International, Inc
School Science and Mathematics Association
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

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