

June 19, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
H-232 Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Majority Leader
H-107 Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6502

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Majority Leader:

As leaders in the science, technology, education, and business communities, we are writing to urge you to schedule floor time to consider important measures approved recently by the House Science Committee—H.R. 5356 and H.R. 5358. These bills would authorize Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics or STEM scholarships, teacher training and early-career research at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

In a world where many nations compete on the basis of cost and quality, innovation is the key arbiter of competitiveness. Other countries are increasing investments in basic research and better-educating their science and engineering workforce. We must respond by strengthening our capability to innovate in an increasingly challenging, knowledge-based, global economy. America's strategic role in world affairs is intertwined with the global economic marketplace. We must act now to ensure our leadership role in economic and strategic affairs for generations to come.

America has many resources to accomplish this task—not the least of which is our ability to recognize when change is required and action is necessary. We urge you to move expeditiously to bring both of these bills before the full House. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

American Society of Plant Biologists
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME Center for Public Awareness
ASTRA, Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America.
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of University Research Parks
Computing Research Association
DuPont Corporation
EAST Initiative
Electronic Industries Alliance
Energy Sciences Coalition
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Exploratorium
General Motors
Hewlett-Packard
IEEE-USA
Intel
Materials Research Society
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association for Marine Laboratories
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Science Teachers Association
New England Council
Optical Society of America
Sea Grant Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
Southeastern Universities Research Association
SPIE-The International Society for Optical Engineering
STEMES (STEM Education Society)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
The Business-Higher Education Forum
The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh
The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Cincinnati
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution