



November 2, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

CC: House and Senate Appropriations Committees

Dear House and Senate Leaders:

As you work to complete appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012, the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition strongly urges you to ensure that Congress continue its bipartisan and robust support for effective and focused STEM education programs at the U. S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation.

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.

A broad array of economic data has continued to point to the close connections between a strong STEM education and a student's future success in competing for the best jobs of today and the future: STEM degree holders enjoy higher earnings than their non-STEM colleagues, regardless of whether they work in STEM or non-STEM occupations; job growth is twice as high in STEM fields than in the rest of the economy; and STEM workers are weathering the current unemployment crisis far better than their counterparts in other fields.

While we recognize the difficult choices that Congress faces in controlling the growth of federal deficits, debt, and spending, we are also concerned that some budget proposals in the House and Senate would significantly reduce funding for STEM education programs

at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education. **We are particularly concerned about a draft House proposal to eliminate the Department's Math and Science Partnership program (Title IIB)**, which would have an immediate and adverse effect on the ability of K-12 educators across the country to provide high quality instruction in STEM subjects.

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 bi-partisan 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) 223-1887 or [jfbrown@stemedcoalition.org](mailto:jfbrown@stemedcoalition.org) with questions, comments, or for further information.

Respectfully,

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education  
American Chemical Society  
ASME  
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
Battelle  
Committee for the Advancement of STEM Specialty Schools.  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Entertainment Industries Council, Inc  
Hands on Science Partnership  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Science Teachers Association

Altshuller Institute  
American Institute of Physics  
American Statistical Association  
Assessing Women and Men in STEM  
Association of Science Materials Centers  
BSCS  
EAST Initiative  
ecoCAD Design Group  
EWB-USA  
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association  
LearnOnLine, Inc  
National Council of Structural Engineers Associations  
National Girls Collaborative Project  
Pico Turbine International  
School Science and Mathematics Association  
Society of Women Engineers  
SparkFun Electronics  
SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics

STEM Education Center, University of Minnesota  
Technology Student Association