



May 11, 2006

Honorable Sherwood Boehlert
Chairman
House Committee on Science
2320 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boehlert:

As presidents of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) and Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), which collectively represent nearly 1,200 high-tech companies, we are writing to endorse the three newly introduced House Science Committee bills that support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and early career research grants in these fields.

We applaud your committee for its valiant efforts to bolster both STEM education and basic research at a time when our nation's leadership on both fronts is being challenged by formidable international competitors. As presidents of leading U.S. trade associations representing companies that rely on innovative thinkers and a strong knowledge economy, we are concerned about America's competitiveness in science and technology. Our associations are actively doing our part to advance STEM education at all levels and increase federally funded basic research, on which our members so desperately rely to develop future generations of technology and services.

The **"Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act,"** sponsored by Rep. Schwarz, will aid in developing an army of students and young professionals to compete with the world's best and brightest. The programs and authorizations provided for in this bill provide a critical foundation for ensuring that the U.S. both trains and retains the leading innovators in the STEM fields.

The **"Early Career Research Act"** and **"Research for Competitiveness Act,"** sponsored by Rep. McCaul, also add to the U.S.' efforts, providing important seed capital for high-risk research and beginning to address the lack of federal funding for STEM-related high-risk, basic research in our country. The member companies of TIA and EIA believe that early-career grants in this field will yield both measurable and immeasurable results for the institutions at which these researchers work and the nation as a whole.

Thank you for your longtime, tireless support of science and technology-related basic research and education. Your leadership on these issues is immensely appreciated, and we look forward to continuing our work with you and the members of the Science Committee to see these bills enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew J. Flanigan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "F".

Matthew J. Flanigan
President
Telecommunications Industry Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dave McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

Dave McCurdy
President & CEO
Electronic Industries Alliance