

July 20, 2007

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ehlers:

On behalf of the Tapping America's Potential (TAP) Coalition, we would like to thank you for your leadership in providing additional funds for the Math and Science Partnerships program at the Department of Education. The adoption by the House of your amendment to H.R. 3043, the *Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2008*, is a significant step forward in improving science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the United States.

TAP is a coalition of 16 national business organizations dedicated to improving America's competitive position by supporting policies that will increase the innovation capacity of the United States. Since July 2005, the Coalition has been taking action to reach the goal of doubling the number of U.S. STEM graduates by 2015. TAP has consistently advocated for increased funding for the Math and Science Partnerships program at the Department of Education.

TAP has also consistently advocated for increased funding for the separate and distinct Math and Science Partnerships program at the National Science Foundation. We deeply appreciate your effective leadership in initially authorizing both of these programs and seeing that they are adequately funded in annual appropriations bills.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the spending level required by your amendment is included in the final appropriations measure enacted by Congress.

Sincerely,

AeA  
Business Roundtable  
Business-Higher Education Forum  
Council on Competitiveness  
Information Technology Association of America  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Minority Business RoundTable  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Defense Industrial Association  
National Venture Capital Association  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Software & Information Industry Association  
TechNet  
Technology CEO Council  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce