



Ecological Society of America
1990 M Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Health Education Labor and
Pensions Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Health Education Labor and
Pensions Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
House Education and Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Education and Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

As the world's largest society of professional ecologists, the Ecological Society of America recognizes the important role Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) education plays in ensuring the future success of our nation's youth.

We write in strong support of Sec. 2005 in S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act and request that its language be included in any final conference report legislation agreed upon between the House and Senate to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Sec. 2005 would provide every state with dedicated funding to support a wide range of STEM education activities, including recruitment, retention, and professional development of educators; expansion of learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom; and programs to close achievement gaps for at-risk and high-need student populations.

According to the National Science Foundation's 2014 Science and Indicators report, science and technology degree holders "weathered" the most recent recession better than other sectors of the US workforce. The top ten highest paying college majors are all in STEM fields. Continued growth in the STEM workforce is critical in maintaining both our economic vitality and global competitiveness.

Any comprehensive education legislation that aims to provide our nation's students with access to high quality education should help ensure they have the fundamental knowledge that makes it possible for them to pursue future careers in STEM fields. Thank you in advance for your commitment to student achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Inouye", written in a cursive style.

Dr. David W. Inouye
ESA President