August 29, 2003

The Honorable Ralph Regula
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We want to thank you for providing $150 million for the Department of Education Math & Science Partnership program, which is the sole source of dedicated formula funding for all states to improve K-12 math and science education. This level of funding will provide continuity to existing partnerships and allow new partnerships to form. Each state will have greater resources to fund merit-based partnerships that improve teacher quality and student achievement in K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Improving the math and science skills of our students is essential to maintaining our technological leadership in our global economy. Demand for scientists and engineers will grow as the economy expands and as the current population of baby-boomers reaches retirement age. The need for a technologically literate population is essential for our economy and our national security.

Although there has been a steady improvement in the performance of America’s students over the last ten years, a decreasing number of American students are pursuing college degrees in STEM fields. In spite of this progress, America’s K-12 students still score below the best in the world on international tests.

The Math & Science Partnership program brings all stakeholders together to improve teacher quality and student achievement. We appreciate your leadership and support for this program. We look forward to helping you and your staff secure this increase of $50 million during your negotiations with the Senate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Burgio Curtis at 202.785.7385 or Heather Hill at 202.872.4467

NOTE: Of the proposed $150 million, Ohio will receive an estimated $4.3 million in funding for math and science education.