August 22, 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller,

The scientific societies listed below are writing to express strong support for S. 2757, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2014.

This legislation makes a strong statement that investment in basic scientific research across all disciplines is a top national priority. By setting funding targets that provide for steady and sustained growth in funding for federal research agencies, S. 2757 recognizes that basic research is necessary for our country to successfully compete and prosper in the global community of the 21st century. S. 2757 amplifies this principle with strong support for OSTP, NSF, NIST, NASA, and NOAA with a special focus to strengthen education in the STEM fields.

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2014 continues the vision and commitment expressed in the original 2007 COMPETES legislation and will make an important contribution to the future vibrancy and growth of the Nation. The dedication of your leadership in this bill is evident in the provisions addressing NSF’s peer review process, administrative burdens associated with grants, family leave policy in federal research agencies, and participation in scientific conferences. Additionally, we are pleased that the bill calls attention to the importance of evidence-based STEM education practices and inquiry-based learning and that it supports teacher training programs such as the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

We appreciate your efforts, and stand ready to help see this legislation signed into law. Thank you for your many years of leadership and commitment to science and science education.

Sincerely,

American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Institute of Physics
AVS Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
OSA – The Optical Society

Member Societies
Acoustical Society of America
American Association of Physicians in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Crystallographic Association
American Meteorological Society
American Physical Society
AVS Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
OSA – The Optical Society
The Society of Rheology

Other Member Organizations
Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society
Society of Physics Students
Corporate Associates