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The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
U.S Senate  
478 Russell Senate House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

January 21, 2011

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

I am writing on behalf of the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education and its member organizations to support the Engineering Education for Innovation Act of 2011 (E2 for Innovation Act). In September 2009, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council released a report entitled *Engineering in K-12 Education: Understanding the Status and Improving the Prospects*. In their findings the authors stressed the need for common definitions and grade-level appropriate goals, as well as more research on the impacts of engineering education and potential models for implementation.

Last year you introduced the Engineering Education for Innovation Act in the Senate and we were deeply saddened to see that it was overtaken by other pressing needs and was not able to move forward. We are encouraged that you will once again be introducing this key piece of legislation in support of STEM education, America's students, and the innovation platform that drives the U.S. economy.

The E2 for Innovation act will integrate engineering education into the K-12 instruction through the use of challenging content and curricula frameworks that utilize the excitement of problem solving and engineering design to motivate students across the curriculum. The E2 for Innovation Act provides funding for teacher preparation and recruitment especially in engineering education in high needs schools.

We know that the use of these challenging, problem based learning approaches have the ability to increase student achievement in STEM subjects as well as competency in engineering design skills. Through these efforts students often see career opportunities in engineering that might have been unnoticed in a more silo driven STEM approach and for many students in underrepresented minorities it might well be their only introduction to these career possibilities.

Triangle Coalition wholeheartedly endorses this critical piece of legislation and urges the Senate to include the critical components of the E2 for Innovation Act in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as it comes before the Senate this year. The incorporation of the E2 for Innovation Act within the reauthorized ESEA will ensure that federal K-12 education policy catalyzes the development of a highly skilled STEM workforce which will ensure our competitiveness and leadership in the global economy.

We thank you for your leadership in this field and look forward to working with you to help pass the Engineering Education for Innovation Act of 2011.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vance R. Ablott".

Vance R. Ablott  
Executive Director