

Sherwood Boehlert, M.C. (Ret.)
U.S. House of Representatives 1983-2007
100 Kings Creek Circle
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971

October 25, 2008

Mary Eileen Wood Director
Tri Region Science and Engineering Fair
604 Walberta Road
Syracuse, New York 13219

Dear Madam Director,

I write to lend my enthusiastic support for your efforts to raise the funds necessary to make possible the continued and expanded role for the Tri Region Science and Engineering Fair (TRSEF) as an ongoing catalyst in advancing precollegiate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for the Upstate New York area.

In my capacity as Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Science, I was repeatedly provided evidence of the urgency to dramatically improve our nation's investment in STEM education. This plea came from all quarters: the science community, the business community, educators, parents, the media, the whole lot. Our nation's ability to maintain its preeminent position in the global marketplace is being seriously threatened and unless we prove we are up to the challenge, others will pass us by.

I, and a number of my colleagues in the House and Senate, became so concerned that we initiated a study by the National Academy of Sciences which led to the publication of the highly acclaimed and often cited "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report in late 2005. That report is alarming to all who read it.

The key finding of the National Academy report is that to successfully compete, prosper and be secure in the global community of the 21st century the United States must "increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education." That is TRSEF's mission for the Upstate New York area and in order for it to be accomplished, you need the resources necessary, human and financial, to go forward.

You have my unqualified support for the task at hand and I wish you well. So much depends of the success of efforts like yours.

Sincerely,

Sherwood Boehlert