



May 5, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
U.S. Senate  
306 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), we commend you for introducing legislation to create a program for appointing United States Science Envoys (S. 838), and are pleased that it has passed the full committee. The U.S. science community is one of our nation's great assets. Science is critical to economic growth, finding solutions to such key societal challenges as clean energy technologies, creating new technologies to increase food and agriculture production, and developing cures to some of our global health challenges.

As your bill highlights, and polling from around the world demonstrates, our nation's scientific research excellence is one important area where much of the world holds high regard for the United States. As such, increasing global exposure to U.S. science and scientists – both early career and well established – provides a valuable mechanism for addressing our many shared global challenges, while also building positive relationships between the United States and key regions and countries.

It is for these reasons that AAAS, the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the prestigious journal *Science*, recently established a Center for Science Diplomacy. The Center is actively working with the foreign policy, public policy and science communities to identify ways to better utilize international science cooperation to build links between and among societies. Through this center, AAAS looks forward to working with you and your staff, and with the State Department to assist in implementing the key elements covered by this legislation.

Sincerely,

Alan Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Publisher, Science

Vaughan Turekian  
Chief International Officer  
Director, Center for Science  
Diplomacy

Executive Office