



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
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May 7, 2013

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lofgren:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, I write in support of the Science Laureates of the United States Act of 2013. As the legislation notes, "science contributes to the economic prosperity and general welfare of the United States." The creation of a Science Laureate program to raise public awareness about the sciences is to be applauded, and is in keeping with the AAAS goal of "advancing science, serving society."

To remain competitive, America must build its science and technology workforce for the future. Inspiring young people to enter science and engineering fields will require changing the mind-set of American culture. Charismatic, diverse scientist-citizens can serve as role models for the next generation, helping to convey the excitement of discovery and the value of empowering all students through a high-quality science education. Establishing honorary U.S. Science Laureates would send a clear message to young people about the value of science and technology in our society, and the importance of scientific research to both economic progress and our quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Leshner', written over a horizontal line.

Alan I. Leshner

cc: Ben Gutman