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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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May 18, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

It is with great pleasure that we write to you in support of Massachusetts' second application for Race to the Top funding. We have reviewed the new application and with the proposed enhancements we are assured of the Commonwealth's commitment to provide all Massachusetts students with a world-class education.

In 2001, the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio), one of the country's largest biotechnology trade organizations, took action on the industry's concern for a future workforce by creating the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd). MassBioEd is focused on developing and providing engaging biotechnology educational experiences in schools, the workplace, and the community at large.

BioTeach is the Foundation's flagship program designed to provide all 339 Massachusetts public high schools with the training and resources needed to incorporate biotechnology education as part of their core curriculum. BioTeach provides professional training for educators so they can access and use biotechnology curricula and provide their students with career awareness activities. To date, teacher professional development training and classroom laboratory equipment has been provided to 177 public high schools through this program. Nearly \$3 million in equipment supplies and consumables has been awarded, and nearly 500 science teachers have received biotechnology laboratory training. To date, BioTeach has reached over 26,000 students.

It is with this extensive programmatic experience that we enthusiastically support the application's overall strategy and, in particular, its focus on the following:

- *A comprehensive educator evaluation system that will include intervention and support strategies to help educators continually improve.*
- *Develop and retain an effective, diverse, and culturally competent educator workforce.* Educators need an improved system to provide professional development for their particular needs, and school systems need metrics to measure educator effectiveness. We believe the Massachusetts application takes a creative and determined approach towards meeting these objectives.
- *Increase college and career readiness for all students.* This is paramount to preparing our future workforce. The application builds on our high academic standards by promoting more rigorous high school curricula and developing pathways to college programs focused on science, technology, engineering, and math.

MassBio and MassBioEd welcome the opportunity to partner with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on their Race to the Top initiatives. We are committed to leveraging the biotechnology sector's resources to make this an effective partnership and we encourage you to fund Massachusetts' Race to the Top application.

Sincerely,

Robert Coughlin, President & CEO
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

Lance Hartford, Executive Director
Massachusetts Biotechnology Education
Foundation

MassBio is committed to fostering a positive environment that enables each biotechnology company to achieve its full potential, making Massachusetts a world renowned center for biotechnology.

MassBioEd is a non-profit organization committed to promoting biotechnology education in Massachusetts through school science programs, workforce training, and lifelong learning.