



American Chemical Society

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July 15, 2015

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

As president of the American Chemical Society, I am writing to endorse your amendment to create a climate change education program as a part of reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Climate science is highly complex, requiring a multi-temporal and multi-spatial understanding of the interrelationships of intricate chemical, physical, and biological systems. Evaluating policy alternatives to address our changing climate requires an understanding of engineering trade-offs associated with risk, life-cycle, and cost-benefit analyses. Decisions involve many factors beyond climate science, including economics, social values, competing priorities, and the risk of uncertainty.

To make informed decisions, people need a basic understanding of the causes, likelihood, and severity of the impacts of climate change, and the range, cost, and efficacy of different options to limit or adapt. Climate change education for the public is essential to informed rational personal choices.

ACS believes your amendment is an important step in ensuring climate literacy among the general public and supports its passage and implementation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Carl Maxwell, at the American Chemical Society at (202) 872-4391.

Sincerely,

Diane Grob Schmidt, Ph.D.
2015 President
American Chemical Society