Dr. Michael Kirst, President, and Members of

California State Board of Education

1430 N Street, Room 5111

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Kirst and Members of the CA State Board of Education:

This letter is a statement of support for California to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards.

California has the opportunity to lead the nation in ensuring that all our students have access to a world-class science education by adopting the Next Generation Science Standards this year. These internationally benchmarked standards will give our students the knowledge, skills and education they need to succeed in school and to support our state’s economy at nationally and globally competitive levels.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) industries are the drivers of tomorrow’s economy. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that seven of the ten fastest growing occupations are in STEM fields, and California is expected to have over 1 million STEM jobs within five years, far more than any other state. Our state’s future economic success is closely tied to developing a workforce with the talent, creativity and knowledge to innovate in STEM fields. The Next Generation Science Standards are an essential, promising part of strengthening K-12 education in California to create an educated citizenry and tomorrow’s highly skilled workforce.

We support California’s adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards in order to provide a foundation for all students to succeed in college and in 21st century careers. These standards will help ensure that California remains the nation’s top producer of science, technology, engineering and mathematics talent and innovation.

By signing this statement of support, we urge the California State Board of Education to move forward in adopting the Next Generation Science Standards.