



**Materials Research Society**  
Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

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March 18, 2013

Honorable John Boehner  
United States House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
351-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We ask you to reject Senate Amendment 67 to the Continuing Resolution, HR 933, which would arbitrarily restrict the number of government employees who can attend any conference meeting to 25 people.

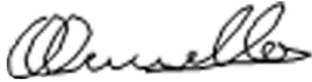
The amendment is intended to limit spending on government-sponsored conferences and travel expenses for federal employees, however, the net result would be fewer opportunities to learn and exchange information and it would remove responsibility for these travel decisions from government managers.

We understand the need to responsibly control federal spending, but it is very important to consider the role that attendance at professional society meetings plays in serving the objectives of government funded research. These travel opportunities initiate research collaborations between universities, national laboratories, and industry which, in turn, will optimize federal investment already made in innovation, intellectual property, and scientific research.

The amendment would severely diminish government attendance at our conferences and hinder the necessary interchange between government and the private sector. We urge you to reject Senate Amendment 67 to the Continuing Resolution, HR 933.

The Materials Research Society represents over 16,000 professional scientists and engineers who work on fundamental and applied research and development. The membership is comprised of research scientists from universities, national laboratories, and industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Orlando Auciello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Orlando Auciello, President  
Materials Research Society

cc: Chair and Ranking Member of House and Senate Appropriations Committees