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\*Member of Executive Committee  
†Non-Trustee



February 25, 2016

Dear Legislators:

**Re: STEM Action Center \$15M Funding** (Executive Appropriations Committee)

On behalf of the Utah Technology Council (UTC) and over 5,000 companies in Utah's technology industry, we write to inform you that **UTC strongly supports the STEM Action \$15M on-going funding. Plus industry has made a \$2.8M private match.**

Utah companies have made it clear that their growth and ability to create jobs is comprised by the lack of STEM-ready talent.

The STEM Action Center, and specifically its digital math tool initiative, is addressing a serious threat to STEM education...inadequate math preparation. Data from the first year of implementation indicates that **participating students see improvement, and in some cases statistically significant, in their math progress** as compared to their peers that do not have access to the tools.

On behalf of our companies, we strongly encourage you to support the FULL appropriation request that will allow ALL students to retain access to these valuable learning tools. We cannot settle for less, we cannot pick and choose which students deserve a better chance at success and we think that our students and the future that we create for them are worth the investment. It is a priority for our students, companies and Utah's economy.

**This is one of UTC's top High Priorities** for the session. We would greatly appreciate your support by **voting yes** for the STEM Action Center \$15M on-going funding. We'd welcome hearing from you on any clarification. *Huge thanks for your outstanding public service!*

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Nelson".

Richard R. Nelson  
President and CEO  
801.718.3999