BRIDGING THE SCIENCES COALITION

9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814
Telephone: 301-634-7114 | Fax: 301-634-7133

September 21, 2006

Joe Barton, Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Rayburn Building, Room 2125
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Barton:

On behalf of the Bridging the Sciences Coalition, representing fourteen basic scientific research societies and organizations, totaling more than 260,000 scientists, we write to thank you for including a Demonstration program in the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006 for Bridging the Sciences and high-risk research.

We believe this program could have enormous benefits for the American public. First, it will accelerate groundbreaking research into new foundational physical and mathematical discoveries that will pay off for biomedicine. Second, strengthening our federal commitment to deeper scientific innovation will pay off for our economy. And, third, innovation at this scientific interface will keep the United States competitive on the world's scientific and technical stage. The program you have included in Section 6 of the NIH Reform Act is an important step towards advancing this research and the life-saving discoveries it could create.

We thank you for your leadership. We also would like to express our gratitude to Katherine Martin of the Energy and Commerce Committee staff and Cheryl Jaeger of the Majority Whip's Office for their admirable work on this legislation. Please let us know how we can be helpful in advancing it.

Sincerely,

Ken A. Dill

Mary Dirby Barkley

Ken Dill
Co-chair

Mary Barkley
Co-Chair

Cc: Katherine Martin
Cheryl Jaeger

The Bridging the Sciences Coalition is composed of fifteen scientific societies and related organizations and represents over 260,000 scientists.