



June 17, 2022

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Alma Adams
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable French Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Senator Coons, Senator Scott, Representative Adams and Representative Hill:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is proud to support S. 1945/H.R. 3294, the “IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act.” This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will provide needed funding for facilities and other infrastructure needs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

At ACC, we are proud to support students who are interested in attending HBCUs through our Future of STEM Scholars Initiative (FOSSI). A nationwide program launched in 2020, FOSSI supports students from underrepresented communities pursuing studies in a range of [preferred science, technology, engineering, and math \(STEM\) fields](#), including chemical and mechanical engineering, chemistry, and environmental sciences. HBCUs are the top colleges in awarding undergraduate degrees to Black students in life sciences, physical sciences, math, and engineering. FOSSI has raised more than \$17 million to fund \$40,000 scholarships for almost 350 students. Notably, FOSSI’s support goes beyond financial assistance, connecting students with [nearly 60 Corporate Sponsors](#) and a 4-year skills development program, providing leadership training, mentoring and internship opportunities at supporting organizations.

The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act will provide students the academic opportunities that come from having access to 21st century technology and facilities. The funding will provide necessary resources to renovate, modernize and construct new campus facilities including instructional, research and residential spaces. HBCUs have historically been underfunded. However, the funding from by the Act will help provide world-class facilities to enhance the world-class education provided by HBCUs.

The ACC strongly supports the “IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act.” We look forward to working with each of you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Jahn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Jahn
President and CEO