

An Open Letter to TMS Professional Members: Speak up for MSE at Congressional Visits Days

Dear Materials Professional:

I wanted to extend an invitation to participate in the Federation of Materials Societies (FMS) sponsored Congressional Visit Days. The event will occur on March 31 and April 1 of 2009 in Washington, D.C. The FMS is an overarching collaboration of materials societies including TMS, ASM International, AWS, MRS, ACerS, IEEE, APS, ACS, AACG, the University Materials Council and the Electrochemical Society (see the sidebar for all member society acronyms and definitions). Typically, the individual professional or technical society is represented to FMS through its Government, Federal or Public Affairs Committee. As a member of one of these committees, we are looking for your interest in participating. The mission of FMS is: *to promote the general advancement of materials science and engineering and interactions with other sciences and technologies and with the arts, for the public welfare, through cooperative efforts.*

Congressional Visit Days (CVD) is an opportunity to go to Washington as a materials professional and specify the important role materials play in society. This is not a lobbying activity. We try to articulate to our individual congressional delegations how science, engineering, and technology promote innovations and advancements for our country. As with most technological advancement, materials are the enabling capability. For example, the ages of human development (e.g., the Stone Age, Copper Age, Bronze Age, Steel Age, etc.) are defined by the

prevalent materials used in that time period.

As materials professional active in public and government outreach, your experience is valued. We typically bring in large numbers of students and early career professionals to visit their congressional offices. However, the knowledge, mentoring, and networking capabilities of our more experienced members are invaluable in the process. The congressional offices like to know about specific examples of where funding from the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, etc., benefit people living in their districts, and they do gravitate toward students and early career professionals. The combination of experience and futures combines for a powerful impact! This translates to more support for technological issues facing our country. I think we can all support energy research, cleaner environments, and better education oppor-

tunities!

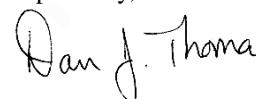
The process to participate in Congressional Visit Days is easy. The Federation of Materials Societies will arrange speakers to brief you on current topics related to research relevant to the materials profession. There will also be schedules arranged for you to visit your congressional delegations. Handouts will be supplied to assist in conveying talking points about the benefits of federally funded research and development on education and society. State fact sheets will also be supplied. All we need is your presence and individual stories!

To participate you need to contact Betsy Houston, the Executive Director at FMS. Her contact information is:

Betsy Houston, Executive Director
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Washington, DC 20006
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(preferred)
(202)296-9282

We look forward to having you join us for Congressional Visit Days. It is an exciting time for technological impacts to solve national and international issues that will affect the remainder of your careers and your profession. If I can answer any questions, please feel free to contact me or Betsy Houston.

Respectfully,



Dan J. Thoma, Ph.D.
 President, FMS

ACRONYM LIST OF FMS MEMBER SOCIETIES

AACG—American Association for Crystal Growth
 ACerS—The American Ceramic Society
 ACS—American Chemical Society
 APS—American Physical Society
 AWS—American Welding Society
 ASM International
 ECS—The Electrochemical Society
 TMS—The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society
 IEEE
 MRS—Materials Research Society
 UMC—University Materials Council