

MRS Members Participate in Congressional Visits Day 2008

On March 5, 31 members and staff of the Materials Research Society participated in the 2008 Science, Engineering & Technology Congressional Visits Day. This event, held annually, brings several hundred scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, and technology executives to Washington D.C. to advocate for legislation and policy of importance to the community. See Web site www.agiweb.org/gap/cvd/cvd2008/index.html.

MRS members visited the offices of their representatives and senators to discuss the importance of several issues in their Congressional district and state, as well as to the country as a whole. Members of

Congress were encouraged to support (1) the FY09 President's budget for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Defense's Basic Research Office to double these appropriations over the next 10 years; (2) the required appropriations for the America Competes Act, which was signed into law in 2007; and (3) supplemental appropriations by Congress to correct last year's final Omnibus appropriation decisions for NSF, DOE Office of Science, and NIST.

Participants reported very effective

meetings and came away with a great sense of satisfaction and an awareness of the need for continuous interaction with Congress throughout the year. MRS members are encouraged to visit their representatives and senators both in Washington D.C. and in their home districts to advocate for support for materials research and other policy issues of concern to the materials community. The MRS Washington office can provide assistance and background materials. If interested, contact Kathy D'Biagio at e-mail dbiagio@mrs.org for more information.

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