Date:

Dear Business XXX:

###### Although STEM workers drive our Nation’s innovation and competitiveness, U.S businesses say there not are enough of them. In fact, “STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17 percent by 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations”, and “almost all of the 30 fastest growing occupations in the next decade will require at least some background in STEM.” However, according to many educational institutions, student interest in STEM is declining.

###### I am writing today to ask for your support as we seek to implement/continue a very successful STEM program, SeaPerch, at (name of school). SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts. Students learn best by doing, and SeaPerch exposes students to engineering principles, problem solving, teamwork, tool safety, design, and competitions. Additionally, SeaPerch provides students with the opportunity to learn about the need for a future STEM workforce, and gives them the opportunity to see themselves in that role.

An investment of just $1,925 could enable up to 40 students to experience this hands-on, “minds-on” activity and help create the next generation of critical thinkers and innovators. However, a donation of any amount is greatly appreciated and will go a long way in helping us achieve our goals.

Consider the following testimonials from a few educators who have used SeaPerch in their classrooms:

*“I am writing to let you know how beyond happy I am with the outcome of the ROV event. The children were thrilled to learn science via such a meaningful, hands- on activity.”*

*“Kids were more excited to come to class during the project. There were many sparks of interest related to STEM topics ... and many had glimpses of what a fun and challenging career might be. Many of my students can't imagine even leaving the county, so a project like this really opens a door to the world - especially when the kids start noticing all the robotic applications in the news every day.”*

*“As a dedicated educator and a science lover, I have to say that the SeaPerch Program is giving me and my students the opportunity of a lifetime. The program facilitates the learning of a wide variety of skills and gives science teachers a powerful tool to turn the learning experience of the students into an active, challenging and highly engaging one. In my past eight years as a science teacher, I had never experienced so much fun and excitement inside and outside my classroom.”*

Partnering with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), SeaPerch is managed by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Foundation. To learn more, please visit [www.seaperch.org](http://www.seaperch.org) or [www.auvsifoundation.org](http://www.auvsifoundation.org) .

Support for our SeaPerch program from local businesses like yours will enhance our community and country as a whole. Thank you for considering our request and please contact me at (phone/email) with any questions.

Sincerely,