

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Jennifer Carroll, District 13

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March 10, 2006

Senator Mel Martinez United States Senate Hart 317 Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Martinez:

TEKNA-THEOS Inc. (TTI) is proposing a new program, Student Teacher Aerospace Education in Rural Schools (STAIRS). This is a novel entrepreneurial approach to increasing the number of American engineering students. This small non-profit company has created STAIRS to better equip teachers in rural areas and inspire their students to choose technical careers. I am pleased to support TTI, and I am proud to have this company headquartered in my district.

STAIRS merges aeronautics and biotechnology material together in a small business type atmosphere to foster student ownership at the local school level. Teachers will be given the tools necessary to foster a new generation of engineers and scientists. By equipping Florida's teachers, STAIRS will further apply academic theory to the real-world. Teacher/student companies will team with corporate entities to design, build and test biomedical space payloads.

TTI was formed by a teacher and high school students in 2002 to build a spaceflight bioreactor. Today TTI is supported by Moseley Technical Services Inc. (MSTI), Teaching Science and Technology Inc. (TSTI), and sponsored by Flightstar a Jacksonville aviation company with facilities at Cecil Field. With eighteen small spaceflight payloads to its credit, MTSI supported the development of TTI's working prototype bioreactor. TSTI is an engineering training company that supports many of America's aerospace corporations.

TTI has been awarded several grants, and has been written about or appeared on the evening news numerous times. In 2005 alone this company sponsored a private pilot's ground school for students and their parents, carried out teacher development modules, and conducted a space day event for hundreds of students. This spring they will sponsor aerospace days, which includes teachers and students from six northeast Florida counties.

TTI has obtained a Dun and Bradstreet number, a Commercial and Government Entity code, and a Trading Partner Identification Number. TTI students are active in politics and volunteer at local congressional offices. Again, I strongly endorse TEKNA-THEOS Inc. and the STAIRS program and ask for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carroll Representative

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