



TMS ADVOCACY GUIDING VALUES AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Background:

TMS regularly receives requests from a variety of organizations and professional societies to join an advocacy position through co-signing a position paper or encouraging its members to contact their representatives. The process that we have followed in the past has varied. In some cases, approval was provided by the TMS President or Public & Governmental Affairs (P&GA) Committee Chair. In other cases, typically on more substantive issues, such requests were reviewed with the Board of Directors in order to obtain their approval before proceeding forward. The Board has come to realize that the existing process is one that can impede TMS from moving forward swiftly, and that there will be times that a timely response is necessary. Also, the Board sees much merit in having an agreed-upon framework, publically available and posted on our website that identifies the areas for which TMS will advocate. Accordingly, at the 138th TMS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, the Board asked that the P&GA Committee prepare a document that would serve TMS as its “Guiding Values” for advocacy and articulate a process for TMS endorsement of any specific advocacy position.

TMS Guiding Values

- Recognizing the importance of advocacy and the involvement of ordinary citizens in the political process, TMS will work to educate our elected officials through the efforts of its own P&GA Committee and in unison with other professional societies. These efforts will focus on the promotion of materials science and technology and involve themes that are widely shared by the TMS membership.
- TMS will not advocate for a position that favors one technology solution over another.
- TMS will not advocate for a position that inherently favors one member group over another
- TMS will not engage in any advocacy activities that would fall into the category of lobbying and jeopardize TMS’ 501c(3) status
- TMS will not advocate any positions that impact any specific regulation that may benefit member organizations in a preferential way
- TMS will be transparent in determining and communicating those positions for which it does provide advocacy and will openly communicate its endorsement activities.

TMS focuses its advocacy activities on the following areas:

- Funding for broad-based materials-related research and development
- Support for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs
- Promoting the materials science and engineering profession
- Production, use, conservation, and storage of energy
- Environmental and health impacts and applications of materials
- Sustainable materials design and processing, including resource recovery and recyclability
- More effective approaches to the issuance of visas that maintain open borders for genuine scientific exchange

Approval Process:

1. Any request for TMS endorsement will be forwarded to the TMS Executive Director (ED) for cataloguing and initial evaluation.
2. All requests will be reviewed by the TMS Public & Governmental Affairs Committee Chair and TMS President.
3. If the request is judged to be clearly consistent with and covered by the TMS Guiding Values above, endorsement by TMS will be provided. The endorsed document will be included as an information item on the next P&GA Committee and TMS Board of Directors meeting agendas.
4. If the request is judged to not be clearly consistent with and covered by the TMS Guiding Values, they can either a) decline TMS endorsement, or b) refer the request to the P&GA Committee as a whole for discussion and to provide a recommendation to the Board. Approval by the Board at a Board meeting held according to TMS Bylaws will be necessary for endorsement to be provided.