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**Temat:** An Invitation

Dear Colleague,

For many years there has been an increased recognition of the importance of mathematical modeling from universities, government, and industry. Modeling courses have proliferated in departments of mathematical sciences worldwide. The Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) had some 7000 undergraduate teams last year and the Chinese Modeling Competition had over 23,000.

Yet at the high school level there are only a few such competitions with many fewer students, even amid signs of the growing recognition of modeling's centrality. We believe that it is time to change the secondary school culture. And we believe that the best way to do this is to institute a high-level, prestigious new secondary school contest – one that will have both national and international recognition.

We propose to found the International Mathematical Modeling Challenge. We intend this to be a true team competition, held over a number of days with students able to use any inanimate resources. This competition would be modeled after other major international contests, with two rounds of competition, namely national rounds to pick teams from each participating country and an international round hosted each year by a different country, in which the national winners compete against each other having access to the same technology, facilities, etc.

We are asking you to become a founding member. All that is required is a commitment to help this idea flourish and the willingness to join as a member to the planning committee. Our plan calls for the first meeting to be held this Spring in Boston, MA. We (COMAP) will handle all local arrangements and cover

local expenses. In addition, funding is available (from NeoUnion Esc, Hong Kong) to defray costs for international travel.

We plan the meeting to take place over a full weekend, beginning with dinner on Friday evening and ending midday on Sunday. We welcome your attendance. Please indicate by return email which weekends from mid-March thru mid-May you can be available.

We ask you to join with us in this exciting new adventure. We believe that it can and will have profound effects on high school mathematics education and be of benefit to us all.

Sincerely,

Sol Garfunkel  
Executive director, COMAP