

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
528 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
Facsimile: 1-202-224-7327

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
361 A Russell Senate  
Washington, SC 20510  
Facsimile: 1-202-224-2499

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

As the House and Senate move toward an agreement on the supplemental spending bill, we strongly urge you to preserve the funding increases for the physical sciences and engineering included in the Senate-passed legislation. The \$200 million appropriated to the National Science Foundation and the \$100 million for the Office of Science in the Department of Energy represent the bare minimum Congress should provide for basic research and math and science education at a time when America's economic competitiveness is increasingly challenged.

The FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act came up woefully short of the funding commitments made by Congress and the Administration in the Democratic Innovation Agenda and the American Competitiveness Initiative. The consequences of this inaction are now apparent: cutting edge research has been halted or not launched; scientists in the hundreds have lost their jobs; fewer teachers are being trained; bright students are choosing alternative paths; and international partnerships have been severed. Basic science and engineering research at universities and national labs drives our nation's ability to develop breakthroughs ranging from energy- and life-saving devices to technologies that contribute to our economic growth, national defense and societal welfare. Now is the time to invest in America's competitive future and prevent further backsliding.

America's business, scientific and academic communities are united in asking for your leadership to preserve this funding in the FY 2008 supplemental and to put America back on track in FY 2009 to secure our crucial innovation investment commitments. We appreciate your continued efforts and look forward to working with you throughout this process.

Sincerely,

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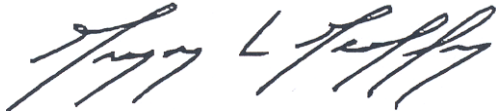
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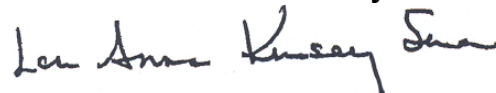
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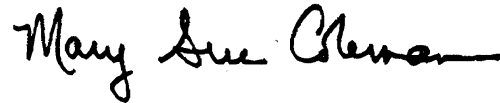
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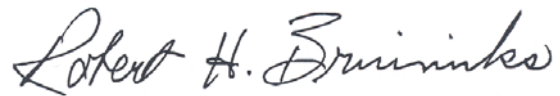
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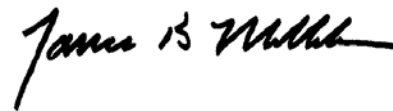
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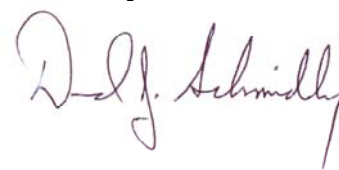
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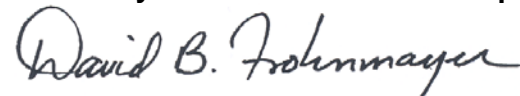
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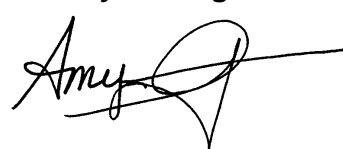
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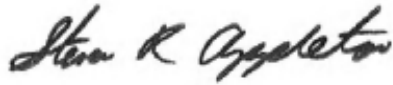
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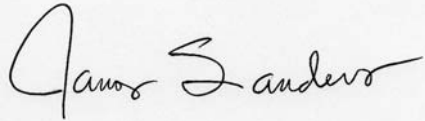
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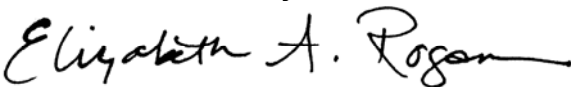
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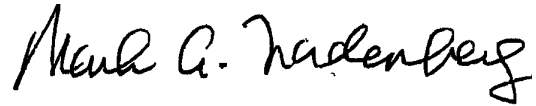
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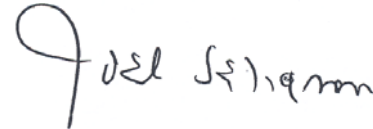
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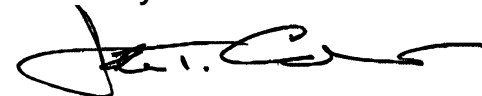
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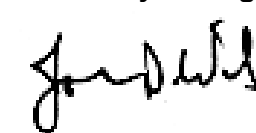
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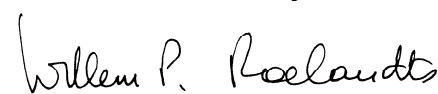
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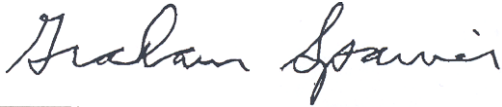
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CC:

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The Honorable John Kyl, Minority Whip  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate Republican Conference  
The Honorable Robert Byrd, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chair, Democratic Policy Committee  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Chair, Republican Policy Committee