Tapping America's Potential
Task Force on the Future of American Innovation

February 11, 2009

Senator Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-131 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-131 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-218 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-218 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Inouye, Senator Cochran, Chairman Obey, and Representative Lewis:

As leaders of the American business, scientific, and higher education communities, we thank you and your colleagues for including investments in physical science and engineering research, scientific infrastructure projects, and math and science education in both the House- and Senate-passed versions of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. These investments create and preserve good jobs now and lay the foundation for better, high-paying jobs in the future.

As you move toward a conference report, we strongly urge you and your fellow conferees to support the House-passed funding levels for the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the investments in both bills for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) core laboratory programs, NIST facilities, and construction grants.

The programs carried out by these critical civilian science agencies can quickly distribute new research and infrastructure funds widely across the United States to create new jobs, stabilize American communities and foster economic growth. New investments in physical science and engineering research, related facilities, and math and science education at the House levels would provide over 100,000 direct and downstream jobs within one year and stimulate new economic activity for decades to come.

Innovation is the key to long-term economic security and renewed American technology leadership. Investments in physical science and engineering research and related facilities will strengthen America's capacity to innovate and will create a stronger, more resilient U.S. economy and a more highly skilled U.S. workforce. Building state-of-the-art research infrastructure creates new jobs in the construction trades and manufacturing, expands the horizons of a whole generation of young scientists and engineers, and attracts business investment. New investments in innovation create long-term economic growth, stable employment, and a higher standard of living for all Americans.

We appreciate your leadership and your hard work on behalf of U.S. economic recovery and American technology and innovation. We urge your support to ensure that significant new investments in science and engineering research, related infrastructure, and math and science education are included in the final bill.

Sincerely,

Signatories on the following page

Tapping America's Potential (TAP) is composed of 16 prominent business organizations that represent the largest and most innovative companies in America. In 2005, they set the goal of doubling the number of U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates with bachelor's degrees by 2015. www.tap2015.org

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, a coalition of businesses and business organizations, scientific societies, and higher education associations, was founded in 2004 to advocate greater federal investments for basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. www.futureofinnovation.org

Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Universities
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Chemical Society
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Statistical Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Aviza Technology, Inc.
Axcelis Technologies
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
CompTIA
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