



September 16, 2009

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

Dear Madam Speaker:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of major high-tech, aerospace, chemical and other corporations, universities and scientific societies – appreciates your extraordinary, consistent support of funding for basic scientific and engineering research.

In particular, we applaud you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives for passing FY10 appropriations bills that provide strong funding for basic research and STEM education accounts at the National Science Foundation, the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy.

We also urge that increased funding be provided to the accounts that support basic research and STEM education at the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The work done by these agencies is a critical component of our national innovation ecosystem and requires increases that are not currently reflected in the bills passed by the House thus far.

All of these investments are consistent with the President's goal of doubling funding for the physical sciences over a ten-year period. Such strong and consistent support for research is essential to growing the American economy and keeping American workers and businesses globally competitive, addressing pressing energy, technology, and national security challenges, and training the next generation of scientists and engineers.

As you look toward completing the first session of the 111th Congress this fall, we encourage you to finalize these appropriations measures as rapidly as possible. Thank you again for your outstanding leadership in this effort. We pledge to work with you to achieve these important goals.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation

Agilent Technologies

ASTRA

American Chemical Society

American Institute of Physics

American Mathematical Society

American Physical Society

American Society for Engineering Education

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

American Statistical Association

Applied Materials, Inc

Association of American Universities

Association for Computing Machinery

Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities

Battelle

Business Roundtable

CompTIA

Computing Research Association

Council on Competitiveness

Google

IBM

IEEE

Intel

Luna Innovations

Materials Research Society

Microsoft

National Association of Manufacturers

National User Facility Organization

Northrop Grumman Corporation

Procter & Gamble

The Science Coalition

Semiconductor Industry Association

Semiconductor Research Corporation

Southeastern Universities Research Association

TechAmerica

Telecommunications Industry Association

Texas Instruments, Inc