



June 24, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate

Dear Senators:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of major high-tech corporations, universities and scientific societies – strongly supports reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act this year and encourages bipartisan backing for this effort.

When the COMPETES Act was enacted in 2007, it provided the nation with a broad blueprint for strengthening the pillars of American innovation and competitiveness: increasing the nation's commitment to basic research, strengthening STEM education, and fostering a business environment to drive innovation. These initiatives were based upon the recommendations contained in the National Academies' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," authored by a distinguished panel of educators, innovators, and scientists. Passage of COMPETES was strongly supported by leaders of both parties and received broad-based support in Congress.

Reauthorizing COMPETES would underline our nation's commitment to policies that strengthen America's talent pool and provide continued support for long-term basic science and engineering, ensuring that American innovators continue to produce the discoveries that create new technologies, new industries, and high value jobs for Americans.

The companies and allied organizations that comprise the Task Force stand ready to work with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation

Agilent Technologies
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Chemical Society
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Statistical Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
Council on Competitiveness
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Google, Inc.
IBM Corporation
Infineon Technologies
Innovation Advocates
Intel Corporation
IEEE-USA
Luna Innovations, Inc.
Materials Research Society
Microsoft Corp.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National Inventors Hall of Fame
National User Facility Organization
Northrop Grumman Corp.
Procter & Gamble Company
Science Coalition
Semiconductor Industry Association
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Southeastern Universities Research Association
TechAmerica
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments Incorporated

cc: United States Senate