



May 7, 2010

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

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
House Science and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Ralph Hall
Ranking Member
House Science and Technology Committee
H3-394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Gordon, and Ranking Member Hall:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of major high-tech corporations, universities and scientific societies – strongly supports House approval of H.R. 5116, the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act.

The COMPETES Act, enacted in 2007, 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.

COMPETES received broad-based, bipartisan support in Congress, and its reauthorization deserves similar support. Reauthorizing COMPETES would underline our nation’s commitment to policies that strengthen America’s talent pool and steadily increase support for long-term basic science, ensuring that American innovators continue to produce the discoveries that create new technologies, new industries, and high value jobs for Americans.

Again, the Task Force on American Innovation supports passage of H.R. 5116.

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 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
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments Incorporated