

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 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

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

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

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

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

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	Information Technology Industry Council	Syracuse University
Association of American Universities	Intel Corporation	Teradyne
Alliance for Science & Technology	KLA-Tencor	Texas Instruments
Research in America	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Tulane University
American Chemical Society	Materials Research Society	University Corporation for Atmospheric
American Institute of Physics	Michigan State University	Research
American Mathematical Society	Microsoft Corporation	University of California
American Physical Society	NASULGC, A Public University Association	University of California, Davis
American Statistical Association	National Association of Manufacturers	University of California, Riverside
Applied Materials, Inc.	National User Facility Organization	University of California, San Diego
ASME	New York University	University of Illinois
Aviza Technology, Inc.	Northwestern University	University of Maryland
Axcelis Technologies	Novellus Systems, Inc.	University of Massachusetts
Battelle	The Ohio State University	University of Michigan
Business Roundtable	Optical Society of America	University of Minnesota
Carnegie Mellon University	Penn State University	University of New Mexico
Columbia University	Princeton University	The University of North Carolina
CompTIA	The Procter & Gamble Co.	University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Computing Research Association	Proteus Environmental Technologies	University of Oregon
Cornell University	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	University of Pennsylvania
Council on Competitiveness	Semiconductor Equipment and Materials	University of Pittsburgh
Cymer, Inc.	International	University of Southern California
Duke University	Semiconductor Research Corporation	University of Vermont
FEI Company	Society for Industrial and Applied	University of Virginia
Georgia Institute of Technology	Mathematics	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Harvard University	Southeastern Universities Research	Vanderbilt University
IBM Corporation	Association	Verigy
IEEE-USA	SPIE – The International Society for	Washington University in St. Louis
Indiana University	Optical Engineering	
Infineon Technologies North America Corp.	Stanford University	