

# Tapping America's Potential

## Task Force on the Future of American Innovation

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February 2, 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  
H-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Inouye and Cochran:

As leaders of American business, science and higher education, we urge you to support strong investments in U.S. innovation capacity in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* currently under consideration by the Senate.

Investments science and engineering research and math and science education will provide immediate relief for America's struggling workers and families by creating new jobs and stimulating new economic activity while laying a strong foundation for future American prosperity. Specifically, research and education programs at the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science in the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology directly support U.S. innovation and are well-positioned to distribute additional funds quickly to create jobs and foster growth. A recent report from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation estimates that a \$20 billion investment in America's research infrastructure will create or retain 402,000 U.S. jobs for one year.

Innovation is the key to long-term economic security and renewed American technology leadership. Wise investments in math and science education, science and engineering research, and scientific research 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. Investments in research infrastructure will create new jobs in the construction trades and manufacturing while expanding the horizons of a whole generation of young scientists and engineers. Investing in innovation will create a platform for greater long-term economic growth, stable employment and a higher standard of living for all Americans.

Investments in science and engineering research and math and science education fit President Obama's criteria of creating jobs and boosting economic recovery in the short term while laying a foundation for long-term growth.

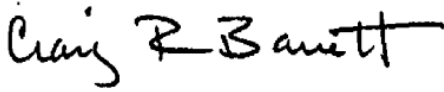
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Signatures on the two following pages

*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](http://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](http://www.futureofinnovation.org)*



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Chairman  
Intel Corporation



Richard K. Templeton  
Chairman, President & CEO  
Texas Instruments



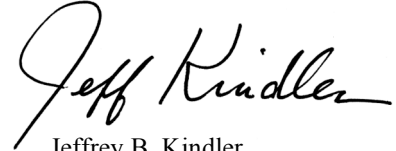
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Former Chairman & CEO  
Lockheed Martin Corporation



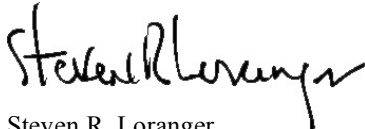
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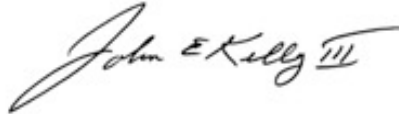
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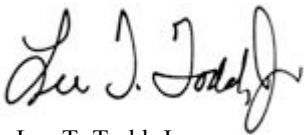
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& Director of Research  
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*Additional signatories on the following page*

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