June 3, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Facsimile: 1-202-224-7327

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
361 A Russell Senate
Washington, SC 20510
Facsimile: 1-202-224-2499

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

As the House and Senate move toward an agreement on the supplemental spending bill, we strongly urge you to preserve the funding increases for the physical sciences and engineering included in the Senate-passed legislation. The $200 million appropriated to the National Science Foundation and the $100 million for the Office of Science in the Department of Energy represent the bare minimum Congress should provide for basic research and math and science education at a time when America’s economic competitiveness is increasingly challenged.

The FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act came up woefully short of the funding commitments made by Congress and the Administration in the Democratic Innovation Agenda and the American Competitiveness Initiative. The consequences of this inaction are now apparent: cutting edge research has been halted or not launched; scientists in the hundreds have lost their jobs; fewer teachers are being trained; bright students are choosing alternative paths; and international partnerships have been severed. Basic science and engineering research at universities and national labs drives our nation’s ability to develop breakthroughs ranging from energy- and life-saving devices to technologies that contribute to our economic growth, national defense and societal welfare. Now is the time to invest in America’s competitive future and prevent further backsliding.

America’s business, scientific and academic communities are united in asking for your leadership to preserve this funding in the FY 2008 supplemental and to put America back on track in FY 2009 to secure our crucial innovation investment commitments. We appreciate your continued efforts and look forward to working with you throughout this process.

Sincerely,
Hector Ruiz  
Chairman & CEO  
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.

Bruce E. Bursten  
President  
American Chemical Society

Christopher Hansen  
President & CEO  
American Electronics Association

Dr. John Watson  
President  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

H. Frederick Dylla  
Executive Director and CEO  
American Institute of Physics

Sanjay Jha  
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QUALCOMM CDMA Technologies

Bill Destler  
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Rochester Institute of Technology

Victoria Hadfield  
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SEMI North America

George Scalise  
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Jerry P. Draayer  
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Peter A. Lachenbruch  
President  
American Statistical Association

Michael M. Crow  
President  
Arizona State University

Robert M. Berdahl  
President  
Association of American Universities

Dr. Mary L. Good  
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ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America

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President  
Auburn University

Daniel A. Reed  
Chairman  
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David Skorton  
President  
Cornell University

Deborah L. Wince-Smith  
President  
Council on Competitiveness

John Hennessy  
President  
Stanford University

Nancy Cantor  
Chancellor & President  
Syracuse University

Lezlee Westine  
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TechNet

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Texas Instruments Incorporated

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CEO & President  
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Optoelectronics Industry Development  
Association

Graham Spanier  
President  
Pennsylvania State University

CC:

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Majority Whip  
The Honorable John Kyl, Minority Whip  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate Republican Conference  
The Honorable Robert Byrd, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chair, Democratic Policy Committee  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Chair, Republican Policy Committee