



October 9, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader and Mr. Chairman:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of major high-tech, aerospace, chemical and other corporations, universities and scientific societies – appreciates the support provided by Congress for basic scientific and engineering research in the FY09 appropriations process and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

As you continue work on the FY10 appropriations process, we urge the Senate to sustain the momentum provided by these measures by keeping research funding for key federal agencies that support the physical sciences and engineering on the doubling path envisioned by President Obama as well as the America COMPETES Act. We would also urge your strong support for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs critical to encouraging students to study and stay in science and engineering fields.

Strong and consistent support for research is essential to growing the American economy and keeping American workers and businesses globally competitive, addressing pressing energy, technology, and national security challenges, and training the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The House of Representatives has already passed FY10 appropriations bills that provide strong funding for basic research and STEM education accounts at the National Science Foundation, the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy. We hope that the Senate appropriations bills will match this support for these key agencies.

We also urge that increased funding be provided to the accounts that support basic research and STEM education at the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The work done by these agencies is a critical component of our national

innovation ecosystem and requires increases not currently reflected in the bills passed by the House.

As you look toward completing the first session of the 111th Congress this fall, we encourage you to move quickly to finalize these appropriations measures and to provide appropriate science investments so that we can remain on President Obama's ten-year doubling path. We pledge to work with you to achieve these important goals.

Should you need any more information on the Task Force on American Innovation, please contact John Palafoutas at 202-682-4451 or john.palafoutas@techameria.org. Our website is <http://www.innovationtaskforce.org>.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation

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ASTRA
American Chemical Society
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Statistical Association
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ASME
Association of American Universities
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