January 23, 2009

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

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

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2320 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, Chairman Miller and Chairman Gordon:

As leaders of American business, science and higher education, we commend you for your leadership on the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The research and education investments in the Act 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.

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

The research and education provisions in the Act fit President Obama’s criteria of providing short-term stimulus while laying a foundation for long-term growth. They also fulfill the promise of the America COMPETES Act, passed by Congress in 2007, which established the policy framework to ensure that America is more prepared to compete in the world economy.

We salute you for your vision, your hard work and your tenacious advocacy on behalf of American technology and innovation. We pledge our support to ensure the research and education investments included in the bill are enacted into law.

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

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
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Former Chairman & CEO  
Lockheed Martin Corporation

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The McGraw-Hill Companies  
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NASULGC, A Public University Association

Robert Berdahl  
President  
Association of American Universities

Peter McPherson  
President  
NASULGC, A Public University Association

AeA  
ASEE  
Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America  
American Chemical Society  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Statistical Association  
Applied Materials  
Arizona State University  
ASME  
Association for Computing Machinery  
 Battelle  
Biophysical Society  

Brown University  
Business Roundtable  
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Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders  
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Council on Competitiveness  
Crop Science Society of America  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
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Georgia Institute of Technology  
IEEE-USA  

Indiana University  
The International Society for Optical Engineering  
Information Technology Association of America  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Luna Innovations, Inc.  
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Materials Research Society  
Michigan State University  
Microsoft Corporation  
Minority Business RoundTable  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Council for Science and the Environment  
National Defense Industrial Association  
National User Facility Organization  
National Venture Capital Association  
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Additional signatories on the following page
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