

February 28, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic House Leader, House of  
Representatives

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader, House of Representatives

Dear Members of Congress:

In this time of great budget difficulties, we are writing to remind you that budget cuts alone will not lead to economic growth. Even in times of austerity, investment in scientific research is vital to ensuring our country's long-term prosperity and competitiveness. The U.S. simply cannot afford drastic, indiscriminate cuts to federal science research and development programs. While it is true that we are facing challenging economic decisions and must take measures to reduce our federal deficit, we must do so in a thoughtful, responsible way.

A healthy science program is one of the essential components to ensuring a healthy economy. Many technologies now central to daily life - including the Internet, GPS technology, lasers, and microchips - were initially funded by federal research dollars. Scientists and engineers need your support in order to continue to break new ground in our understanding of scientific principles and their applications.

Scientific advances often allow people to reach beyond what was thought possible. Indeed, America was discovered because of that spirit, and today it allows us to lead the world in cutting-edge innovation. While reducing deficits is necessary for achieving long-term prosperity, it is equally necessary that we continue to prioritize spending on science and technology. For more than half a century, breakthrough scientific and engineering research has provided the foundation for US innovation and economic growth. As our economy slowly rebounds, now is not the time to break that trend.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if our societies can provide any additional support or information as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Acoustical Society of America  
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in  
America  
American Chemical Society  
American Geophysical Union  
American Association of Physics Teachers

American Association for the Advancement  
of Science  
American Astronomical Society  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Physics

American Mathematical Society  
American Society for Engineering Education  
ASME  
American Statistical Association  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
AVS Science & Technology of Materials,  
Interfaces, & Processing  
Biophysical Society  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Federation of American Societies for  
Experimental Biology  
Federation of Materials Societies  
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Materials Research Society  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
Research!America  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
SPIE  
Stand with Science  
The Optical Society  
University Corporation for Atmospheric  
Research (UCAR)