



July 15, 2010

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Obey, Ranking Member Lewis, Chairman Mollohan, and Ranking Member Wolf:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of major corporations, universities, and scientific societies – applauds the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) for the funding it provides in its FY11 bill for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) labs. We urge the full Appropriations Committee to provide allocations that match or exceed the Subcommittee levels for both agencies. We also urge the Committee and the full House to pass the CJS bill quickly so that it can be enacted before the beginning of the new fiscal year, thereby avoiding damaging dislocations in our nation's research programs.

The landmark National Academies' Report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, targets both NSF and the NIST labs as part of its recommendation for doubling of federally funded research in the physical sciences and engineering. Its distinguished authors make a convincing case that this is essential to our long-term economic growth and national security.

The House has shown its commitment to carrying out this recommendation through its actions on the FY10 appropriations bills and the reauthorization of America COMPETES. Approval of the CJS bill with its current funding for NSF and NIST would maintain the momentum needed to complete this task.

We are well aware of the spending constraints that Congress is facing. Indeed, we understand the need for this nation to reduce deficits and bring our national debt under control. However, the investments we make in basic research remain critically important to the innovation that is the foundation of long-term prosperity and competitiveness. Cutting back on those investments would be counterproductive. It would have a negligible impact on the deficit in the near term, yet it would place at serious risk our ability to grow the economy and address our deficit problem over the long term.

Again, we commend these essential investments in the FY11 Commerce, Justice, Science funding bill.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation

Agilent Technologies
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Chemical Society
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Statistical Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
Council on Competitiveness
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Google, Inc.
IBM Corporation
Infineon Technologies
Intel Corporation
IEEE-USA
Luna Innovations, Inc.
Materials Research Society
Microsoft Corp.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National Inventors Hall of Fame
National User Facility Organization
Northrop Grumman Corp.
Procter & Gamble Company
Science Coalition
Semiconductor Industry Association
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Southeastern Universities Research Association
TechAmerica
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments Incorporated

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John A. Boehner, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives