



# TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

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November 13, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of industry, colleges and universities, and the science and engineering communities, we urge Congress and the Administration to resolve their budgetary differences and quickly enact the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 increases for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of Energy Office of Science. The increases have had strong White House support and strong bipartisan, bicameral backing in Congress.

The America COMPETES Act, passed overwhelmingly by the House and Senate and recently signed into law, demonstrates the extraordinary depth and breadth of support for increased federal commitments to basic research and science education. We welcome this progress. This authorizing legislation represents a landmark for science. As a nation we can ill afford the damage that would be caused by delaying funding of the programs that it highlights.

Funding for these agencies is an essential element of the nation's efforts to sustain its economic competitiveness, national security and quality of life in the 21st century. Past investments in basic research have spurred economic growth and created entirely new technologies, such as the Internet, lasers, high-speed computers, MRI's, and the World Wide Web, that have become vital to our daily lives. We expect no less from future investments.

We recognize that there are disagreements between Congress and the White House over other budget issues. But there is a consensus on federal investment in the physical sciences and engineering. Congress and the White House should not hold America's innovation and competitiveness agenda captive to disputes over other issues.

Agilent • ASTRA, the Alliance for Science and Technology in America • American Chemical Society • AeA (American Electronics Association) • American Mathematical Society • American Physical Society • Association of American Universities • Association for Computing Machinery • Computing Research Association • Electronic Industries Alliance • Electric Power Institute • Hewlett Packard • IBM • IEEE USA • Intel Corporation • Microsoft • NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges) • National Association of Manufacturers • Northrup Grumman • Semiconductor Industry Association • Telecommunication Industry Association • The Science Coalition

Therefore, we urge Congress and the Administration to work together now to fund the science agencies at the necessary levels.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation

ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
Agilent Technologies  
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
American Chemical Society  
American Defense Systems, Inc.  
American Electronics Association  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Society for Engineering Education  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Association of American Universities  
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Council on Competitiveness  
Google, Inc.  
IBM Corp.  
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The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - United States of America  
Luna Innovations, Inc.  
Materials Research Society  
Microsoft Corp.  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
The Science Coalition  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Southeastern Universities Research Association  
Technology CEO Council  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
Texas Instruments Incorporated  
The Johns Hopkins University  
The Proctor & Gamble Company