

Resolution of the *Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA)*

Regarding Support for Growing the Federal Investment in Research & Development

WHEREAS the federal government historically has played a key role in the support of basic research in the national interest, and

WHEREAS the results of basic research in the physical sciences provide for significant advances in national defense, homeland security, life sciences, information technology, economic growth and improvements in the quality of life, and

WHEREAS federal research investments are falling significantly behind the growth of the U.S. economy at a time when our nation is even more reliant on innovations stimulated by science and engineering support and is falling behind our international competitors, and

WHEREAS, in both surplus and deficit budget environments since 1995, federal funding for physical science research has decreased from 0.85 percent to 0.60 percent as a percentage of total discretionary spending; and

WHEREAS, the total federal research and development (R&D) proposed for FY 06 is \$132.3 billion, 1.9 percent below the FY 05 level adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, agencies proposed to take the largest cuts include the Department of Energy's Office of Science (4.5 percent), basic and applied research for the Department of Defense (14.2 percent), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) (9.7 percent), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (11.2 percent); and

WHEREAS the recently released report by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation notes that the United States has seen:

- A decline in the proportion of U.S. citizens in science and engineering (S&E) graduate studies by 10 percent from 1994 to 2001, while the number of foreign born students has increased by 25 percent;
- A decrease in the share of S&E papers published worldwide, from 38 percent in 1988 to 31 percent in 2001; and
- A patent application growth rate of 116 percent from 1989 to 2001, compared to the five fastest growing Asian nation's rate of 759 percent; and
- Its total R&D investment grow at a rate of 34 percent from 1995 to 2001, compared to China, South Korea and Taiwan, which increased R&D by 140 percent over the same period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), a consortium of 62 universities primarily in the Southeastern United States strongly urges the Congress to triple the nation's R&D budget over the next decade.

