



TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

Aerospace Industries Association
Agilent Technologies
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
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
Association of University Research Parks
Autodesk
The Babcock & Wilcox Company
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
Council for Chemical Research
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council on Competitiveness
Cray Inc.
Dow Chemical Company
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
The Geological Society of America
Google, Inc.
IBM Corporation
IEEE-USA
Industrial Research Institute
Infineon Technologies
Information Technology Industry Council
Innovation Advocates
Intel Corporation
Jellen Ventures
Luna Innovations, Inc.
Materials Research Society
Microsoft Corporation
National Association of Manufacturers
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National User Facility Organization
Northrop Grumman Corp.
Procter & Gamble Company
Qualcomm
SEMI
Semiconductor Industry Association
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Southeastern Universities Research Association
TechAmerica
TechNet
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments Incorporated
The Science Coalition

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

As you begin the process of developing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, the Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) urges you to provide resources that will enable real growth in the research activities supported by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the Department of Defense basic and applied (6.1 and 6.2) research programs, NASA's space science and technology programs and the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Core Programs. Real growth at the very least requires increases that outpace the rising cost of research.

Today's world is markedly different from the world of even a decade ago. As the National Science Board's recent 2014 Science & Engineering Indicators reports, America's share of the world's R&D fell from 37 percent to 30 percent in the years between 2001 and 2012. Our international competitors have recognized what economists have been reporting for some time: science and technology are the principal drivers of economic growth. But as other nations have been ramping up their support for long-term, high-risk research, we have been allowing ours to stagnate or decline. We must reverse that trend and tackle our mounting innovation deficit if we want to retain our global economic leadership. We must also build an innovation economy that creates new jobs and reduces our fiscal deficit.

To succeed in the world of the 21st century, we must also make science attractive to the best and brightest students in an increasingly diverse America. We must provide the workforce of the future with both the resources and opportunities that will enable them to make transformational discoveries and create game-changing innovations. To that end, we must not only provide the resources to fully utilize our existing scientific infrastructure, but we must make investments in modernizing that infrastructure. The research tools of the 20th century, which many of our scientists still rely on today, simply do not meet the needs of the 21st century.

The many industries, universities and professional societies that comprise TFAI urge you to appropriate funds to science and technology accounts that will allow us to reinvigorate our innovation base. If we want to secure our nation's future, we must focus now on the immediate needs of American science and technology.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

cc: House and Senate Leadership and Members of House and Senate Appropriation Committees