



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 Geophysical Union
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
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries
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

September 19, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Reid:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of businesses, scientific societies, and business and university organizations – strongly urges Congress to complete the FY17 appropriations process this year, and to ensure that key agencies supporting scientific research receive robust funding.

Our coalition exists for the purpose of advocating federal funding of research at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and ARPA-E, the research offices at NASA and the Department of Defense, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. We hope final FY17 funding for these agencies will be increased to the extent possible within the final overall discretionary funding caps.

While the country benefits in many ways from scientific research, it is important to understand that our member companies and countless others could not produce the extraordinary innovations the American people count on without the discoveries and ideas that emerge from federally funded research, most of which is conducted at universities. Federally funded research has played a critical role in innovations ranging from GPS to MRI, from smartphone touch screens to numerous technologies that make our men and women in uniform the most effective in the world and enhance their safety.

It is, of course, not unusual to require enactment of a continuing resolution to keep the government operating in the new fiscal year that begins on October 1. It is important, however, that the 114th Congress return after the upcoming election to complete the FY17 appropriations process and not abdicate responsibility for this work to the new Congress. To operate efficiently and effectively, federal agencies depend upon a predictable flow of funding. This is especially the case for the science agencies and their grantees, as scientists must know if they can count on the support needed to continue and complete their research. Putting final decisions

off until the new Congress and the new Administration will disrupt these agencies and the work of scientists upon whom the country depends to conduct research.

Again, we strongly urge Congress to complete FY17 appropriations this year and to provide robust funding of scientific research.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Majority Conference Chair
The Honorable James Clyburn, House Assistant Democratic Leader
The Honorable Luke Messer, House Majority Policy Committee Chair
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, House Democratic Caucus Chair
The Honorable John Cornyn, Senate Majority Whip
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Senate Democratic Whip
The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Conference Chair
The Honorable John Barrasso, Senate Majority Policy Committee Chair
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Senate Majority Conference Vice Chair
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Democratic Conference Secretary
Members of the House Appropriations Committee
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee