



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

February 24, 2014

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

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

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Members Lowey and Shelby:

The Task Force on American Innovation urges you to make scientific research a top priority as you consider the FY 2015 302 (b) allocations for the Appropriations Committees. The many companies, universities, and scientific societies represented by the Task Force agree that America's role as the world innovation leader is in danger, and unless our nation changes course we will lose not only our lead, but the benefits to our economy and national security that stem from being first in the world in innovation.

The National Science Board's *2014 Science & Engineering Indicators* illustrates that recent sequestration cuts and declining federal investments in scientific research over the past several years, combined with rapid advances in other countries are creating an innovation deficit that threatens our long-term leadership role. From 2001 to 2012, the U.S. share of the world's R&D fell from 37 percent to 30 percent, while the share of worldwide R&D performed by Asian countries grew from 25 percent to 34 percent. China alone grew its share from four percent to 15 percent during this period. Other nations have significantly increased their pace of R&D investment at the very time the U.S. has slowed our R&D spending.

You have an opportunity in the FY 2015 appropriations process to take significant steps to help close this innovation deficit and maintain our nation's innovation and economic leadership. We urge you to ensure that the FY 2015 302 (b) allocations for the Commerce-Justice-Science and Energy and Water Development Subcommittees will support strong investments in scientific research at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, NASA, and National Institute of Standards and Technology. We also urge you to send a strong signal in the allocations process for needed scientific research investments in other agencies, especially the basic research accounts within the Department of Defense.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees