March 13, 2015

The Honorable Richard Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

The Task Force on American Innovation, an alliance of America's leading companies, research universities, and scientific societies, commends the introduction of the American Innovation Act.

By putting funding for basic research at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense Science and Technology Programs, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Directorate on a consistent, steady growth path over the next decade the American Innovation Act will help preserve America's position as the global leader in scientific and technological innovation.

Over the past decade, while U.S. investments in research have stagnated, other nations have been investing aggressively to enhance their innovation ecosystems. The American Innovation Act will help close America’s innovation deficit, the gap between the actual level of federal investment in scientific research and what is needed for the United States to remain the world's innovation leader. Increased investments in these agencies will enable new scientific discoveries, the development of new technologies, stronger national security, energy self-sufficiency, and improvements in our nation’s health. All these things are major drivers of economic growth and will contribute to our nation’s long-term fiscal stability.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to making America’s scientific and innovation enterprise and American business the best in the world.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation