

TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

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CONTACT: Barry Toiv
Association of American Universities
barry_toiv@aau.edu; 202-408-7500

INNOVATION TASK FORCE PRAISES STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED INVESTMENT IN DOE OFFICE OF SCIENCE

This statement by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation thanks 70 U.S. Senators and 139 House Members for their letters this week urging appropriators to provide the Fiscal Year 2007 funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science requested by President Bush in his budget and in his American Competitiveness Initiative. The letters (http://www.aau.edu/budget/Ltr_FY07_Office_of_Science_4-26-06.pdf and http://www.aau.edu/budget/Ltr_FY07_H_Office_of_Science_4-21-06.pdf) went to Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Harry Reid (D-NV), the chair and ranking member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, and Representatives David Hobson, (R-OH) and Peter Visclosky (D-IN), their House counterparts.

On behalf of the business, research-university, and scientific communities, the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation thanks 70 U.S. Senators and 139 House Members for their strong expression of support for President Bush's proposed FY2007 investment in the Department of Energy's Office of Science. We particularly thank Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL), Adam Schiff (D-CA), and Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) for coordinating these efforts.

These bipartisan coalitions, which comprise more than two-thirds of the Senate and one-fourth of the House, recognize that America's long-term competitiveness and future energy security depend on our continuing leadership in science and technology. Without a robust federal investment in the Office of Science -- the nation's largest sponsor of basic research in the physical sciences -- we place our continued scientific leadership in danger.

President Bush's budget and his American Competitiveness Initiative call for a renewed commitment to basic research in the physical sciences at our nation's universities and national laboratories. We urge Congress to take up the President's challenge and provide his recommended funding levels not only for the Office of Science but also for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. These letters indicate that there is strong bipartisan Congressional support for such action.

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation (www.futureofinnovation.org), a coalition of businesses and business organizations, scientific societies, and higher education associations, was founded in 2004 to advocate greater federal investments for basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. The group focuses on the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the Department of Defense research budget, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology labs at the Department of Commerce.

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