

# TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## INNOVATION TASK FORCE SUPPORTS SCIENCE FUNDING IN HOUSE BILL

Key federal science agencies would receive a needed boost under Fiscal Year 2006 funding legislation passed by the House Appropriations Committee on June 7, according to the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, a coalition of high-tech companies, business organizations, and scientific and higher education associations (<http://www.futureofinnovation.org>).

The Task Force praised the primary author of the bill, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), who chairs the Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, as well as the ranking member of the panel, Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV), for their support of the federal research enterprise.

Scientific agencies and programs contained in the legislation that would be funded at levels higher than the current year's include the National Science Foundation, NASA, including NASA's fundamental research program, and the laboratories of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the Department of Commerce. The allocations for NSF and NASA research also exceed the amount proposed for FY06 by the Administration.

Following is a statement by the Task Force:

"The country is fortunate that the leadership of this key subcommittee recognizes the role that science and technology play in our nation's economic well-being. We thank Chairman Wolf as well as Congressman Mollohan for their commitment to science at a time when resources are so limited.

"The nation's research enterprise is critical to our international competitiveness. With Europe and the rising economies of Asia challenging our global leadership role, we must invest in the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics if we are going to maintain our advantage. We will continue working with Congress and the Administration to do so."

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*The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, a coalition of high-tech companies, 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 specifically 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.*