



TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

1634 I Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.626.4385 • www.futureofinnovation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2008

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

INNOVATION TASK FORCE PRAISES SELECTION OF STEVEN CHU AS SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Following is a statement by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation on President-elect Obama's nomination of Dr. Steven Chu to be Secretary of Energy.

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation congratulates President-elect Obama on his choice of Dr. Steven Chu as Secretary of Energy. In addition to his extraordinary scientific achievements, Dr. Chu has demonstrated outstanding management and leadership skills as Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Dr. Chu is a strong advocate of enhancing and coordinating the federal investment in the Office of Science and other critical research offices at DOE. This investment and the coordination of these offices are essential for meeting our energy security and environmental challenges.

Moreover, as a member of the committee that wrote the National Academies' "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," Dr. Chu understands that DOE basic research, as well as basic research at such agencies as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is essential to maintaining our innovation edge. With the nation working to recover from recession and chart a path to long-term economic growth, no investment is more important in the long run than basic research.

President-elect Obama has been a strong advocate of this investment, as well, and we look forward to working with his administration and the new Congress to help restore our nation's economic strength and maintain our global economic leadership.

#####

The [Task Force on the Future of American Innovation](http://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.