



TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

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Innovation Task Force Applauds Letter Urging Emergency Funding in FY '08 Supplemental Bill for Critical Science Programs Signed by Bipartisan Group of Senators: Alexander, Bingaman, Corker, Domenici, Durbin, Feinstein, Kennedy and Schumer

The following is a statement by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation expressing support for a letter signed by a bipartisan group of U.S. senators to appropriators. The letter urges funding in the Fiscal Year 2008 supplemental appropriations bill for critical science programs.

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation expresses strong support for the efforts of eight U.S. senators to include additional funding for critical science programs in the Fiscal Year 2008 supplemental appropriations bill. The Task Force applauds these senators for their leadership on this matter. The request that \$350 million be provided for key federal research agencies was contained in a March 17 letter to Senate appropriations leaders signed by the following bipartisan group of senators: Lamar Alexander (R-TN); Jeff Bingaman (D-NM); Bob Corker (R-TN); Pete Domenici (R-NM); Richard Durbin (D-IL); Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); Ted Kennedy (D-MA); and Chuck Schumer (N-NY).

Since the Omnibus Appropriations Bill was enacted, hundreds of scientists have been laid off; research grants have been slashed; and facilities operations have been seriously curtailed at national laboratories. In addition, the U.S. is being forced to renege on its commitment to the international science project ITER, damaging our reputation as a reliable partner for international projects.

As stated in the senators' letter, devoting \$250 million to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science and \$100 million to the National Science Foundation would address the most acute short-term losses in jobs, facility closures, cuts in grants and fellowships and restore America's international standing. It is an affordable and critical way to stimulate our slowing economy in the short run by preserving many of our most strategic jobs, and it would help to lay the groundwork for a robust economy.

America's business, scientific and higher education leaders remain committed to an agenda that keeps the United States competitive by strengthening our capacity to innovate. The Task Force calls upon the President and Members of Congress to support including additional funding for

science in the supplemental appropriations bill to fund programs both called for in the America COMPETES Act, which was overwhelmingly passed and signed into law in August 2007. Investing in U.S. innovation leads to higher productivity growth; creates high-wage jobs and new industries; and raises incomes for Americans. Restoring funding in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget is a necessary and critical step toward ensuring that our nation stimulates innovation and remains globally competitive.

The letter is available at:

http://alexander.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=1399&Month=3&Year=2008

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The [Task Force on the Future of American Innovation](#), 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.