



# TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

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September 22, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

As the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress draws to a close, America's leading businesses, scientific organizations, and universities urge you to fully fund the America COMPETES Act in FY 2009. This includes adjusting funding levels in any Continuing Resolution (CR) to bolster U.S. competitiveness by increasing funding for basic research at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

We appreciate that Members on both sides of the aisle and leaders at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue agree on the need for additional investments in basic research. If approved, these investments would strengthen our economy, help us meet our long-term energy needs, and enhance our defense capabilities while helping to train our next generation of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

Congress and the Administration made substantial progress last year with the enactment of the America COMPETES Act. This year, the Administration assigned a high priority to our global economic competitiveness in its FY 2009 budget request by including funding for the American Competitiveness Initiative. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees marked up FY2009 bills with robust funding for the NSF, DOE Office of Science, and NIST. Additionally, Congress recognized the importance of basic research by approving FY 2008 supplemental funding for the NSF and the DOE Office of Science -- additional funding we greatly appreciate. However, there is a long way to go toward full funding of the America COMPETES Act, and we are very concerned about the possibility of a long-term CR that freezes funding for these agencies at FY08 levels.

Another delay in funding the America COMPETES Act would further erode our scientific leadership and talent base. Failing to build upon the additional funding provided for science in the FY08 emergency supplemental bill would represent a step backwards, again threatening our national laboratories and sending yet another negative signal to young scientists and students at our universities.

Congress, working with the White House, is once again faced with the challenge of making investments that can strengthen our nation's ability to innovate and compete globally. We urge you to fully fund the America COMPETES Act.

Sincerely,

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)	National Semiconductor Corporation
AeA (American Electronics Association)	National User Facility Organization
American Chemical Society	New York University
American Geological Institute	Northrop Grumman Corporation
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering	ON Semiconductor Corporation
American Mathematical Society	Optical Society of America
American Physical Society	Penn State University
American Society of Agronomy	Princeton University
American Statistical Society	The Procter & Gamble Company
American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Association of American Universities	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America	The Science Coalition
Battelle	Semiconductor Industry Association
Business Roundtable	Semiconductor Research Corporation
Computing Research Association	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Computing Technology Industry Association	Soil Science Society of America
Crop Science Society of America	Southeastern Universities Research Association
Duke University	SPIE, The International Society for Optical Engineering
Energy Sciences Coalition	Stanford University
Fairchild Semiconductor	Sun Microsystems
The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology	Technology CEO Council
Freescale Semiconductor	Texas Instruments
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of California, Davis
General Atomics	University of Illinois
IBM Corporation	University of Iowa
IEEE-USA	University of Michigan
Intel Corporation	University of Minnesota
LSI Corporation	University of Pittsburgh
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Virginia
Materials Research Society	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Micron Technology	Universities Research Association, Inc.
NASULGC, A Public University Association	Vanderbilt University
	Washington University in St. Louis
	Xilinx Corporation
	Yale

cc: The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chair, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies Subcommittee  
The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
Joshua B. Bolten, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff  
James Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
John H. Marburger, III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy