

# Task Force on the Future of American Innovation

January 16, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Speaker  
H-232, United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As you deliberate extending the continuing resolution for FY07, we urge you to include increased funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) core labs, and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science budgets which has been approved overwhelmingly by the House and by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

These research investments are critical to strengthening American competitiveness, continuing U.S. innovation leadership, and spurring economic growth in the coming decades. They should not be deferred for another year. There is broad support in the business community as well as the academic community for making these research investments a high priority.

Investments in basic research enjoy strong bipartisan support. As you know, the innovation agenda announced in late 2005 by the House Democratic Caucus called for doubling funds for NSF and basic research at other agencies over five years, and the Administration's FY07 budget called for doing so over ten years. Doubling basic research investments will be a multi-year effort, but we believe the process must start this fiscal year. Building a foundation this year will make the job easier to accomplish over the next several.

The incremental investment of \$1 billion collectively for NSF, NIST, and DOE in 2007 will pay dividends for decades to come as research ultimately produces innovations, creates entirely new industries, generates jobs and enhances

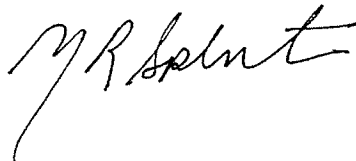
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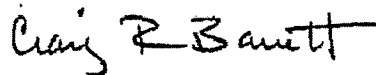
productivity. Including these items in the limited adjustment to the continuing resolution would be a simple but essential first step to ensuring U.S. competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.


Sincerely,



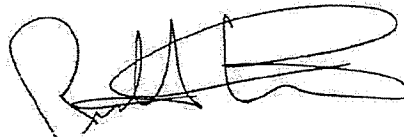
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