April 19, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2321 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2312 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

As you prepare to write legislation to reauthorize the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (America COMPETES) Act, and the major research agencies currently authorized under the Act, we write to offer our assistance, as well as a set of core principles that we believe should guide this critically important legislation.

Each of us worked with previous Congresses and Administrations to help develop and pass the America COMPETES Acts of 2007 and 2010, and we stand ready to work with you to ensure that renewal of the Act this year is once again a national and bipartisan priority. Like the earlier COMPETES Acts, we hope that this one seeks to realize the recommendations outlined in the Rising Above the Gathering Storm Report.

Accompanying this letter, we offer for your consideration a set of principles that we hope you will find helpful as you develop legislation. We are circulating these principles for endorsement to organizations in the education, science, engineering, innovation, and business communities. We will share with you an updated list of endorsing organizations in the coming weeks and would welcome an opportunity to meet with you in person.

As our nation strives to reduce budget deficits and to create economic and job growth, the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act offers an important opportunity to help accomplish these goals. The federal science, engineering, and education programs authorized in the Act are critical to producing future generations of scientists and engineers and the ideas and discoveries that lead to innovations essential to our nation’s economic and national security. We stand ready to work with you to make the most of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Norman R. Augustine, Retired Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Craig R. Barrett, Retired CEO and Chairman of the Board, Intel Corporation
Wes Bush, Chairman, CEO and President, Northrop Grumman Corporation
Brian K. Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum
Alan I. Leshner, Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Peter McPherson, President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Hunter R. Rawlings III, President, Association of American Universities
Richard Templeton, Chairman, President and CEO, Texas Instruments Incorporated
Charles M. Vest, President, National Academy of Engineering
Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

cc: Members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
   The Honorable John A. Boehner, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
   The Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
   The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
   The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
   The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Minority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives

Identical letters to be sent to:
   Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
   Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
   Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions