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TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION APPLAUDS APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR PRESIDENT’S AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS INITIATIVE

The nation’s business, scientific, and research university communities applaud today’s decision by the House Appropriations Committee to fully fund the investments in research in the physical sciences and engineering proposed by President Bush in his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). Today’s action advances the President’s FY2007 budget requests for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The House has already approved the funds he requested for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science.

When this appropriations bill is considered on the House floor, the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation strongly urges Members to protect America’s competitive future and the President’s priorities by rejecting any efforts to reduce the funding provided for NSF and NIST.

These investments, if enacted, will support the kind of cutting-edge research and discoveries that can have an economic impact and can produce technologies that improve our nation’s military capabilities.

Enactment of the ACI is one of the most important legacies that the President and the Congress could create for our children and grandchildren, whose futures would be jeopardized by a loss of American leadership. In a world of growing economic and security challenges, the ACI’s research investments can maintain our innovative capacity, strengthen our competitiveness, and make us more secure.

The Task Force would also like to thank Chairman Frank Wolf (R-VA), whose House Appropriations Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce authored this legislation. Nobody has done more to put the competitiveness issue atop the nation’s agenda. Chairman Wolf’s advocacy of federally supported basic research has helped the nation to understand its importance to our nation’s competitiveness and to long-term economic and national security.

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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. 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.