STATEMENT COMMENDING HOUSE APPROPRIATORS FOR APPROVING
PRESIDENT BUSH’S PROPOSED DOE RESEARCH INVESTMENT

Following is a statement by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation (www.futureofinnovation.org) on the FY07 Energy and Water Appropriations bill approved today by the House Appropriations Committee. The bill fully funds President Bush’s proposed FY07 investment in research supported by the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. The proposal is contained in the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative.

We commend the House Appropriations Committee and in particular Energy and Water Subcommittee Chair David Hobson (R-OH) and Ranking Member Peter Visclosky (D-IN), on taking the first big step toward enactment of the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) – approval of the President’s proposed FY07 investment in the Department of Energy’s Office of Science.

The Office of Science is the largest source of federal funds for the physical sciences and operates the nation’s most important major research facilities and national laboratories. This office makes it possible for thousands of scientists to conduct cutting-edge research that produces discoveries critical to maintaining the nation’s economic competitiveness and national security.

We note with gratitude that in the committee bill, earmarked projects do not detract from the additional funding requested by the President, ensuring that the ACI funds will support the construction and maintenance of needed scientific facilities as well as specific peer-reviewed science.

President Bush rightly sees America’s continuing leadership in science and engineering as essential to our economic security. We support his American Competitiveness Initiative and strongly urge the House and Senate to approve 100 percent of his proposed new investments in the Office of Science, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation (www.futureofinnovation.org), 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.

# # # # #