September 22, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6537

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner:

As the 110th 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  ON Semiconductor Corporation  
Biological Engineering  Optical Society of America  
American Mathematical Society  Penn State University  
American Physical Society  Princeton University  
The American Society of Agronomy  The Procter & Gamble Company  
American Statistical Society  Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
(ASME)  The Science Coalition  
Association of American Universities  Semiconductor Industry Association  
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science &  Semiconductor Research Corporation  
Technology Research in America  Society for Industrial and Applied  
Battelle  Mathematics  
Business Roundtable  Soil Science Society of America  
Computing Research Association  Southeastern Universities Research  
Computing Technology Industry  Association  
Association  SPIE, The International Society for Optical  
Crop Science Society of America  Engineering  
Duke University  Stanford University  
Energy Sciences Coalition  Sun Microsystems  
Fairchild Semiconductor  Technology CEO Council  
The Federation of American Societies for  Texas Instruments  
Experimental Biology  University of California, Davis  
Freescale Semiconductor  University of Illinois  
Georgia Institute of Technology  University of Iowa  
General Atomics  University of Michigan  
IBM Corporation  University of Minnesota  
IEEE-USA  University of Pittsburgh  
Intel Corporation  University of Virginia  
LSI Corporation  University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  Universities Research Association, Inc.  
Materials Research Society  Vanderbilt University  
Micron Technology  Washington University in St. Louis  
NASULGC, A Public University  Xilinx Corporation  
Association  Yale  
cc:  The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, House of Representatives  
The Honorable David R. Obey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan, Chair, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chair, Energy and Water Development, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
The Honorable David Hobson, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Development, and  
Related Agencies 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
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:

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American Statistical Society  Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
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Computing Research Association  Southeastern Universities Research
Computing Technology Industry  Association
    Association
Crop Science Society of America  Stanford University
Duke University  Sun Microsystems
Energy Sciences Coalition  Technology CEO Council
Fairchild Semiconductor  Texas Instruments
The Federation of American Societies for  University of California, Davis
    Experimental Biology  University of Illinois
Freescale Semiconductor  University of Iowa
Georgia Institute of Technology  University of Michigan
General Atomics  University of Minnesota
IBM Corporation  University of Pittsburgh
IEEE-USA  University of Virginia
Intel Corporation  University of Wisconsin-Madison
LSI Corporation  Universities Research Association, Inc.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  Vanderbilt University
Materials Research Society  Washington University in St. Louis
Micron Technology  Xilinx Corporation
NASULGC, A Public University  Yale
Association

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