April 6, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the nation’s business, scientific, and higher education communities, we wish to commend you and your Administration for the extraordinary leadership you have shown in advancing the nation’s investment in basic research, particularly research in the physical sciences and engineering. Working with a Congress that shares this priority, you have taken critical steps that will build long-term economic growth, address the nation’s most significant challenges, and maintain our nation’s global edge in technology and innovation.

We are especially pleased with the attention to research, as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, in the two appropriations measures you have already signed into law – the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY09. The Recovery Act makes significant one-time investments in the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), as well as other vital research agencies, that will create jobs over the next two years, assist our efforts to address our energy and climate challenges, and lay the foundation for our nation’s long-term innovation, global competitiveness, and economic growth. The FY09 bill also includes significant resources for these and other agencies, an important step toward our mutual goal of significant, sustainable, and predictable annual increases for basic research funding.

While we await the details of your FY10 budget, we are pleased that the outline you announced last month signals a strong continuing investment in NSF and in DOE basic science. We anticipate that you will also propose in your complete budget to continue to strengthen the nation’s investment in NIST as well as basic research at the Department of Defense.

Mr. President, we recognize the challenges our nation faces are more serious than those faced by any new President in recent history. We are confident that investments in science will result in new discoveries and innovations that can address many of these challenges. And we stand ready to work with you and the Congress to keep our nation on this path.

Sincerely

Craig Barrett
Chairman
Intel

Shirley Tilghman
President, Princeton University and AAU Chair

Richard K. Templeton
President, Chairman and CEO
Texas Instruments

Lee T. Todd, Jr.
President, University of Kentucky and A·P·L·U Chair

Norman R. Augustine
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Lockheed Martin Corporation

Jeffrey Wadsworth
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Alan I. Leshner
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Samuel Aronson
President, Brookhaven Science Associates
Chair, National Laboratory Directors Council
A123Systems
Acoustical Society of America
AEM Holdings, Inc.
Alcoa
American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Society for Engineering Education
ASME
American Statistical Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
ASTRA – the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America
Auburn University
Avaya Inc.
AVS – Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces and Processing
Ayoka
Battelle
Binghamton University
Bridge360
Brookhaven Science Associates
Business Roundtable
California Institute of Technology
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
Click Bond, Inc.
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
The Colorado Business Roundtable
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Connecticut Optics and Photonics Association, Inc.
Cornell University
The Council for Chemical Research
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders
Council on Undergraduate Research
Covalent Solar
Deloitte LLP
DOSECC, Inc.
The Dow Chemical Company
Duke University
EMC Corporation
Emory University
Energy Sciences Coalition
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Freescale Semiconductor
Fusion Power Associates
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Google, Inc.
GPV
Grants Resource Center/American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Greater Phoenix Leadership, Inc.
Harvard University
HID Global
IBM Corporation
IEEE-USA
Indiana University
Innovation Emporium, Inc.
Intel Corporation
Iowa Business Council Education Excellence Committee
Iowa State University
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Johns Hopkins Institutions
Kansas Bioscience Authority
Kansas State University
LSI Corporation
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
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Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Micron Technology, Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
Minnesota Business Partnership
Motorola, Inc.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Gypsum Company
National Laboratory Directors Council
National Society of Professional Engineers
National Semiconductor Corporation
Neighborhood America, Inc.
New Mexico State University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Optical Society of America
Oracle Corporation
Oregon State University
The Pennsylvania State University
Philips Consumer Lifestyle
Pivotal Insight L.L.C.
Pivotal Product Management
The Procter & Gamble Co.
Proteus Environmental Technologies
Princeton University