



TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

Aerospace Industries Association
Agilent Technologies
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Statistical Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of University Research Parks
Autodesk
The Babcock & Wilcox Company
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
Council for Chemical Research
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council on Competitiveness
Cray Inc.
Dow Chemical Company
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
The Geological Society of America
Google, Inc.
IBM Corporation
IEEE-USA
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries
Industrial Research Institute
Infineon Technologies
Information Technology Industry Council
Innovation Advocates
Intel Corporation
Jellen Ventures
Luna Innovations, Inc.
Materials Research Society
Microsoft Corporation
National Association of Manufacturers
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National User Facility Organization
Northrop Grumman Corp.
Procter & Gamble Company
Qualcomm
SEMI
Semiconductor Industry Association
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Southeastern Universities Research Association
TechAmerica
TechNet
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments Incorporated

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Members Lowey and Mikulski:

The Task Force on American Innovation applauds your recent efforts to boost funding for scientific and technological research in the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. For the first time in several years, many research agencies will now receive funding at or near pre-sequestration levels, and the passage of a permanent R&D tax credit will help U.S. companies make long-term investments.

As you begin the FY 2017 appropriations process and develop the 302 (b) allocations, we urge you to continue making scientific research a top priority. The many companies, universities, and scientific and engineering societies represented by the Task Force agree that America's role as the world innovation leader is in danger, and unless our nation changes course we will lose not only our lead, but also lose the benefits to our economy and national security that stem from being first in the world in innovation.

From 2003 to 2013, according to The National Science Board's just-released *2016 Science & Engineering Indicators*, the U.S. share of the world's R&D fell from 35 percent to 27 percent, while the share of worldwide R&D performed by Asian countries grew from 27 percent to 40 percent. Other nations have significantly increased their pace of R&D investment at the very time the U.S. has slowed ours.

These developments threaten to create an innovation deficit, with significant economic and national security consequences for our country. You have an opportunity in the FY 2017 appropriations process to take significant steps to help prevent this innovation deficit and maintain our nation's innovation and economic leadership. We urge you to ensure that the FY 2017 302 (b) allocations for the Commerce-Justice-Science and Energy and Water Development Subcommittees will support strong investments in scientific research at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, NASA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. We also urge you to send a strong signal in the allocations process for needed scientific research investments in other agencies, especially the basic research accounts within the Department of Defense.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees

www.innovationtaskforce.org