



# 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

September 19, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Reid:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of businesses, scientific societies, and business and university organizations – strongly urges Congress to complete the FY17 appropriations process this year, and to ensure that key agencies supporting scientific research receive robust funding.

Our coalition exists for the purpose of advocating federal funding of research at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science and ARPA-E, the research offices at NASA and the Department of Defense, and the Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology. We hope final FY17 funding for these agencies will be increased to the extent possible within the final overall discretionary funding caps.

While the country benefits in many ways from scientific research, it is important to understand that our member companies and countless others could not produce the extraordinary innovations the American people count on without the discoveries and ideas that emerge from federally funded research, most of which is conducted at universities. Federally funded research has played a critical role in innovations ranging from GPS to MRI, from smartphone touch screens to numerous technologies that make our men and women in uniform the most effective in the world and enhance their safety.

It is, of course, not unusual to require enactment of a continuing resolution to keep the government operating in the new fiscal year that begins on October 1. It is important, however, that the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress return after the upcoming election to complete the FY17 appropriations process and not abdicate responsibility for this work to the new Congress. To operate efficiently and effectively, federal agencies depend upon a predictable flow of funding. This is especially the case for the science agencies and their grantees, as scientists must know if they can count on the support needed to continue and complete their research. Putting final decisions

off until the new Congress and the new Administration will disrupt these agencies and the work of scientists upon whom the country depends to conduct research.

Again, we strongly urge Congress to complete FY17 appropriations this year and to provide robust funding of scientific research.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader  
The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Majority Conference Chair  
The Honorable James Clyburn, House Assistant Democratic Leader  
The Honorable Luke Messer, House Majority Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, House Democratic Caucus Chair  
The Honorable John Cornyn, Senate Majority Whip  
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Senate Democratic Whip  
The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Conference Chair  
The Honorable John Barrasso, Senate Majority Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Senate Majority Conference Vice Chair  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Democratic Conference Secretary  
Members of the House Appropriations Committee  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation