



# 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 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  
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  
The Science Coalition

February 24, 2014

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 Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member,  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Members Lowey and Shelby:

The Task Force on American Innovation urges you to make scientific research a top priority as you consider the FY 2015 302 (b) allocations for the Appropriations Committees. The many companies, universities, and scientific 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 the benefits to our economy and national security that stem from being first in the world in innovation.

The National Science Board's *2014 Science & Engineering Indicators* illustrates that recent sequestration cuts and declining federal investments in scientific research over the past several years, combined with rapid advances in other countries are creating an innovation deficit that threatens our long-term leadership role. From 2001 to 2012, the U.S. share of the world's R&D fell from 37 percent to 30 percent, while the share of worldwide R&D performed by Asian countries grew from 25 percent to 34 percent. China alone grew its share from four percent to 15 percent during this period. Other nations have significantly increased their pace of R&D investment at the very time the U.S. has slowed our R&D spending.

You have an opportunity in the FY 2015 appropriations process to take significant steps to help close this innovation deficit and maintain our nation's innovation and economic leadership. We urge you to ensure that the FY 2015 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, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, NASA, and 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