

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

The undersigned trade associations and private sector organizations write to express our strong support for the *Endless Frontier Act*, sponsored by Senate Majority Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Todd Young (R-IN), which would provide much needed, and long overdue, investment in technology, entrepreneurship, science, research and development, and will promote the long-term, global economic competitiveness of the United States. We are encouraged by this bold and visionary bipartisan effort to ensure the U.S. can out-compete our foreign competitors, especially China. We encourage Congress to make passage of this bill a top priority as we move into a period of economic recovery and job growth post-COVID.

Since the end of World War II, the United States has been the unequivocal global leader in scientific and technological ingenuity and innovation, and as a result, the American people have benefited through good-paying jobs, economic prosperity, and a higher quality of life. Today, however, America's leadership of innovative technologies is being compromised by the aggressive and distortive practices of our foreign competitors. While the U.S. has been underinvesting in the very ingredients that made the country a global leader, namely our superior research and manufacturing capabilities, favorable regulatory regime and economic system, and skilled workforce, our competitors are deploying significant, and at times, distortive resources, engaging in anti-competitive practices such as intellectual property theft, and are exerting influence beyond their borders attempting to dominate the key technology fields of today and of the future.

Without a comprehensive, national investment strategy in critical and emerging technologies, our country will continue falling behind in the race to create cutting-edge solutions to the world's problems. It is crucial that the U.S. bolster its own approach to ensure that our values remain infused in the technologies of the future, especially as China and other nations significantly increase their investments in emerging technologies. Many regions and cities across the country are well-suited to foster innovation and others have tremendous innovation potential. But as a nation, we lack the comprehensive, wide-spread investment needed to build nationwide strength in new and emerging technologies.

In order to remain the global leader in technology, the *Endless Frontier Act* instills within the U.S. government a commitment to prioritize science and technology advancements by creating a Directorate for Technology and Innovation at the National Science Foundation, and charges the foundation with creating and implementing a geostrategic investment plan focusing on 10 key technology focus areas. Additionally, this Act provides \$100 billion to reinvigorate American leadership in the discovery and application of new technologies, as well as \$10 billion to designate a minimum of 10 regional technology hubs, which will be the global centers for R&D, and to help regions throughout the nation develop strategies to build their tech economies. These efforts will provide a lifeline to the future of the American economy, prepare the U.S. workforce to compete globally, encourage new company formation, and create high skilled, good-paying American jobs. We are also pleased to see

a strategic focus on manufacturing innovation through the enhancement and expansion of Manufacturing USA and by strengthening America's critical supply chains, such as semiconductor supply chains.

We also applaud the bipartisan commitment to move this legislation through regular order, which we believe will allow for robust participation from all Senators and provide opportunities for ideas from both parties to be integrated into the final package.

Thank you for your commitment to preserving the innovation economy, which has spurred unbounded economic growth in the United States, and for your thoughtfulness and consideration of views on this critical challenge facing the country. We look forward to serving as a resource to you as we partner to tackle some of America's toughest and most complex challenges.

Sincerely,

TechNet
National Venture Capital Association (NVCA)
Angel Capital Association
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Center for American Entrepreneurship
Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
Economic Innovation Group
Electronic Transactions Association
Engine
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)
National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
Right to Start
Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)
Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA)
Technology Councils of North America (TECNA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Third Way
1871
Arizona Technology Council
California Technology Council
Chattanooga Technology Council
Colorado Technology Association
Computer Measurement Group, Inc.
Connecticut Technology Council
FlagshipKansas.Tech
Florida Technology Council
GCP Tech
Greater Nashville Technology Council
Idaho Technology Council
Indiana Technology & Innovation Association
KC Tech Council
Knoxville Technology Council
Maryland Tech Council
Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council
Minnesota Technology Association

MKE Tech Hub Coalition
Montana High Tech Business Alliance
Nebraska Tech Collaborative
Nevada Technology Association
New Mexico Technology Council
NH Tech Alliance
North Carolina Technology Association
Northern Virginia Technology Council
Ohio IT Association
OhioX
Orlando Tech Council
Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies
Pittsburgh Technology Council
RBTC
Silicon Slopes Commons
Tampa Bay Tech
Tech Collective
Tech Hub South Florida
Tech San Diego
TechBirmingham
TechLauderdale
Technology Association of Georgia
Technology Association of Iowa
Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky
Technology Association of Oregon
Technology Association of South Carolina
Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania
Technology Council of North Dakota (TechND)
TechPoint
TechRochester
TechUnited:NJ
Washington Technology Industry Association
Wisconsin Technology Council