

# Tapping America's Potential

## Task Force on the Future of American Innovation

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-218 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bart Gordon  
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, Chairman Miller and Chairman Gordon:

As leaders of American business, science and higher education, we commend you for your leadership on the *American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. The research and education investments in the Act provide immediate relief for America's struggling workers and families by creating new jobs and stimulating new economic activity while laying a strong foundation for future American prosperity.

Innovation is the key to long-term economic security and renewed American technology leadership. The wise investments in math and science education, science and engineering research, and scientific research facilities included in this bill will strengthen America's capacity to innovate and will create a stronger, more resilient U.S. economy and a more highly skilled U.S. workforce. The provisions for research infrastructure investments will create new jobs in the construction trades and manufacturing while expanding the horizons of a whole generation of young scientists and engineers. By investing in innovation, the bill creates a platform for greater long-term economic growth, stable employment and a higher standard of living for all Americans.

The research and education provisions in the Act fit President Obama's criteria of providing short-term stimulus while laying a foundation for long-term growth. They also fulfill the promise of the America COMPETES Act, passed by Congress in 2007, which established the policy framework to ensure that America is more prepared to compete in the world economy.

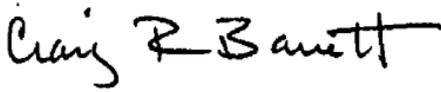
We salute you for your vision, your hard work and your tenacious advocacy on behalf of American technology and innovation. We pledge our support to ensure the research and education investments included in the bill are enacted into law.

Sincerely,

Signatures on the two following pages

*Tapping America's Potential (TAP) is composed of 16 prominent business organizations that represent the largest and most innovative companies in America. In 2005, they set the goal of doubling the number of U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates with bachelor's degrees by 2015. [www.tap2015.org](http://www.tap2015.org)*

*The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, a coalition of businesses and business organizations, scientific societies, and higher education associations, was founded in 2004 to advocate greater federal investments for basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. [www.futureofinnovation.org](http://www.futureofinnovation.org)*



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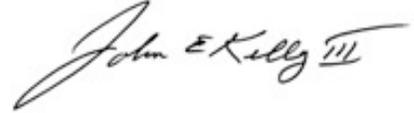
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American Statistical Association  
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Battelle  
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*Additional signatories on the following page*

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