

Scientific Research: A Wise Investment or Unnecessary Spending?

John H. Marburger, III

“Science is not a luxury; it reaches deep into the national infrastructure – economic, physical, and intellectual – that makes modern civilization possible. It operates at every step of the development of cures for disease and new approaches to energy independence.”

*“House’s Science Cuts Threaten Our Future”
Huffington Post, April 7, 2011*

Marburger is Vice President for Research at Stony Brook University and former Science Advisor to George W. Bush

George F. Will

“[R]esearch is what canals and roads once were— a prerequisite for long-term economic vitality.... Republicans are rightly determined to be economizers. They must, however, make distinctions. Congressional conservatives can demonstrate that skill by defending research spending that sustains collaboration among complex institutions – corporations’ research entities and research universities.”

*“Rev the Scientific Engine”
The Washington Post, Jan. 2, 2011*

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke

“[I]nnovation and technological change are undoubtedly central to the growth process.”

“The primary economic rationale for a government role in R&D is that, absent such intervention, the private market would not adequately supply certain types of research. The argument, which applies particularly strongly to basic or fundamental research, is that the full economic value of a scientific advance is unlikely to accrue to its discoverer, especially if the new knowledge can be replicated or disseminated at a low cost.”

*Speech: “Promoting Research and Development: The Government’s Role”
May 16, 2011*

Rich Templeton & Francisco G. Cigarroa

“Federal support for research will be critical to addressing our country's challenges in medicine, energy and national security. As the new Congress convenes in Washington, there will be extreme pressure to cut spending. Research is an investment in the economy that pays off with innovation, leadership and jobs. Proposals to freeze spending at 2008 levels would be disastrous for key research agencies for physical sciences and engineering — a 13.5 percent or \$1.7 billion cut from 2010 levels. Most high-tech businesses have learned that those who invest in R&D in downturns win, a lesson we should apply nationally.”

*“Invest in the Future of Texas”
Austin American Statesman, January 5, 2011*

Templeton is chairman, president and CEO of Texas Instruments; Cigarroa is chancellor of the University of Texas System

Newt Gingrich

“As we developed the reforms and spending cuts, [contained in the Republican’s 1995 balanced budget plan] Sen. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) and Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.) encouraged us to be smart rather than cheap. We realized that cutting spending in areas that produce long-term savings was destructive to the goal of a sustainable balanced budget. That is why, in the midst of a broad array of reductions and reforms, we doubled the budget for the National Institutes of Health and increased defense and intelligence funding.”

[“If it comes to a shutdown, the GOP should stick to its principles”](#)

The Washington Post, Feb. 25, 2011



“The private sector is doing its part to ensure that the U.S. remains the world’s scientific and technological leader. Even in the midst of recessions, when revenues are in decline, U.S. businesses invest in research and development (R&D) because those activities support future sales and market leadership. ... The private sector cannot replace, however, the federal support for basic science and engineering research and math and science education that undergirds America’s national economic competitiveness. Because these investments are the key to future productivity growth, they must remain a top national priority, even while deficit spending is reduced.”

*[Business community letter](#) to Senate Leaders Reid and McConnell on Basic Research and STEM Education
March 9, 2010*

Raymond L. Orbach

“It was with a mixture of astonishment and dismay that I watched as the U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 1, a bill to fund the federal government for the rest of the 2011 fiscal year. Left intact, the massive cuts in research contained in the bill passed on 19 February would effectively end America's legendary status as the leader of the worldwide scientific community, putting the United States at a distinct disadvantage when competing with other nations in the global marketplace.”

[“Research Vital to Economic Growth”](#)

Science, March 4, 2011

*Orbach served as Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy
for President George W. Bush*

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

“Everyone knows we can no longer continue the spending spree that has characterized Washington in recent years. But we want to cut fat, not muscle and bone. And research and innovation are the muscle power that grow our economy. That’s why we must prioritize these cuts so they do not do lasting damage to American innovation but keep our economy in fighting shape.”

Remarks before ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit

March 2, 2011

Commission on Fiscal Responsibility & Reform

“Cut and invest to promote economic growth and keep America competitive. We should cut red tape and unproductive government spending that hinders job creation and growth. At the same time, we must invest in education, infrastructure, and high-value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for businesses to create jobs.”

Report of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform

December 2010

Fareed Zakaria

“Instead, Washington is likely to make across-the-board cuts in discretionary spending, where there is much less money and considerably less waste. ... But reducing funds for things like education, scientific research, air-traffic control, NASA, infrastructure and alternative energy will not produce much in savings, and it will hurt the economy’s long-term growth. It would happen at the very moment that countries from Germany to South Korea to China are making large investments in education, science, technology and infrastructure. We are cutting investments and subsidizing consumption – exactly the opposite of what are the main drivers of economic growth.”

[“Are America’s Best Days Behind Us?”](#)

Time, March 3, 2011

Morton M. Kondrake

“Tea party torch carriers and the Republican leaders who won’t stand up to them are threatening to burn America’s seed corn. It’s simple-minded madness. ... The seed corn is federally funded basic scientific research that produces the discoveries and trains the scientists that eventually create millions of skilled jobs.”

[“GOP Budget Torches America’s ‘Seed Corn’”](#)

Roll Call, March 3, 2011



Business Roundtable™

“Business Roundtable applauds the House for its swift action in passing the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act today. The bill will attract more young Americans into technical fields, expand the employment horizons and earnings potential of millions of new American workers, and strengthen America’s future.

[America’s CEOs Applaud Congress on Enacting Bill to Boost U.S. Competitiveness and Growth](#)

December 21, 2010