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Science Coalition Lauds President's Commitment to Boost R&D Funding

The Science Coalition (TSC) strongly supports President Barack Obama's pledge to increase spending for research and development to more than 3 percent of the nation's GDP. President Obama made the announcement during a speech to the members of the National Academy of Sciences April 27.

"President Obama's comments reflect the undeniable connection between research and the economy," said Science Coalition President Bill Andresen of the University of Pennsylvania. "With increased and sustained investments in basic research and development we can address many of the issues that threaten our economic progress – from achieving energy security to addressing climate change to improving healthcare, R&D will play an essential role."

In addition to the increased funding proposed by the President, the Science Coalition also appreciates his vision for sustaining that funding. Federal funding for research that is sustained and predictable year-to-year is critical to the research process. Certainty of funding is one key to attracting and retaining the pool of talented scientists, engineers and researchers America needs to tackle the challenges ahead.

"President Obama understands that the key to American economic leadership and economic recovery is an America that leads in science and innovation. His commitment to achieving these goals is historic and farsighted," Andresen said.

The Science Coalition fully supports the President's proposal and urges the Congress to include these goals for R&D in its consideration of FY2010 funding bills.

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The Science Coalition is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization representing 48 of the nation's leading public and private research universities. It is dedicated to sustaining the federal government's investment in basic research as a means to stimulate the economy, drive innovation and secure America's global competitiveness.