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The Science Coalition Comments on the State of the Union Address

Jon Pyatt, 2014 president of The Science Coalition, made the following statement following President Barack Obama's 2014 State of the Union address:

We couldn't agree more with the President's statement that "the nation that goes all-in on innovation today will own the global economy tomorrow." We know that technological progress – much of it the result of federally funded basic scientific research – has driven America's economic growth since World War II. Science-driven innovation spawned the biotech and semiconductor industries, gave us tools like the laser, GPS and MRI and, through the World Wide Web and Internet, entirely changed the way we communicate and conduct commerce.

We don't yet know what tomorrow holds – what the "next great American discovery" will be – only that without strong and consistent federal support for basic research we will certainly miss out on the next generation of life-changing and job-creating discoveries. The Science Coalition's "Sparking Economic Growth 2.0" [report](#) identifies 100 [companies](#) that are here today – creating jobs and marketing transformational innovations – because of federal research investments made decades ago.

The Science Coalition joins with President Obama in calling on Congress to undo the harmful cuts to basic research caused by the sequester. We further urge Congress to make investments in education and research a national priority. Only by doing so can we truly put our nation back on a track for long-term economic health, well-being and security.

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The Science Coalition is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of the nation's leading public and private research universities. It is dedicated to sustaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America's global competitiveness. Learn more at www.sciencecoalition.org.

For examples of companies created as a result of federally funded university research, visit: www.sciencecoalition.org/successstories