December 18, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

On behalf of the undersigned coalitions, which represent over 500 combined member organizations—incorporating the voices of industry, scientists, and higher education in the United States—we write to thank the Congress for making strong investments in America’s innovation ecosystem one of its highest priorities.

The FY 2016 omnibus appropriations bill would increase federal research funding by 5.4 percent above FY 2015 levels, providing an even larger increase than the Bipartisan Budget Act provided for discretionary spending. This robust investment in federal research provides much needed fuel for the engine of the American economy, our innovation ecosystem.

By providing real growth for federal investments in research, you have made an important step toward “renewing the federal commitment to scientific discovery,” one of several critical steps outlined in the statement Innovation: An American Imperative (see attached) recently endorsed by over 300 organizations from all fifty states representing American industry, higher education, science, and engineering, and a group of senior corporate leaders.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure our nation’s economy, health, and national security will prosper for many years in the future.

Sincerely,

Dustin Todd
Co-Chair, Task Force on American Innovation
Semiconductor Industry Association

The Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) is an alliance of America’s leading companies and business associations, research university associations, and scientific societies that advocates on behalf of federal funding of basic research in the physical sciences and engineering.

Nick Saab
Co-Chair, Coalition for Aerospace and Science
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

Frank Slazer
Co-Chair, Coalition for Aerospace and Science
Aerospace Industries Association

The Coalition for Aerospace and Science (CAS) is an alliance of over 50 industry, university and science organizations united in our support for robust and sustained federal funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

John Latini
Chair, Coalition for National Security Research
Pennsylvania State University

The Coalition for National Security Research is a broad-based coalition of 74 members including industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional associations committed to a strong Defense Science and Technology Program.
The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) is a broad based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers and mathematicians in universities, industry and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, universities and businesses united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise.

The Science Coalition a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of more than 60 of the nation’s leading public and private research universities that is dedicated to sustaining the federal government’s investment in basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America’s global competitiveness.

United for Medical Research (UMR) is a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates, and private industry that have joined together to seek steady increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health.

The Friends of the Institute of Education Sciences is support the critical research, data, statistics and evaluation programs at IES. Our mission is to advance the objectives of IES and encourage federal investment to conduct the highest quality education research, data collection, evaluations and dissemination at IES.
The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition is a coalition of scientific societies and science advocacy organizations who support full appropriation of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program over time.

R. Thomas Van Arsdall
Executive Director, National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
Van Arsdall and Associates

The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NC-FAR) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that serves as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education.

Alison Mize
Co-Chair, Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition
Ecological Society of America

Robert Gropp, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition
American Institute of Biological Sciences

The Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) is an alliance of scientific and professional societies, associations, and academic institutions that are united by a goal to enhance awareness and appreciation for the biological and ecological sciences on Capitol Hill, at the White House, and in federal agencies.

Julie Palakovich Carr
Co-Chair, USGS Coalition
American Institute of Biological Sciences

Elizabeth Duffy
Co-Chair, USGS Coalition
The Federal Affairs Office

The USGS Coalition The USGS Coalition is an alliance of over 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and its ability to provide critical data and services to the nation.

David Moore
Executive Director, Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Association of American Medical Colleges

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry that support enhancing the federal investment in the biomedical, behavioral, and population-based research conducted and supported by the NIH.
CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
    The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader
    The Honorable Richard Shelby
    The Honorable Lamar Alexander
    The Honorable Susan Collins
    The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
    The Honorable Lindsey Graham
    The Honorable Mark Kirk
    The Honorable Roy Blunt
    The Honorable Jerry Moran
    The Honorable John Hoeven
    The Honorable John Boozman
    The Honorable Shelley Capito
    The Honorable Bill Cassidy
    The Honorable James Lankford
    The Honorable Steve Daines
    The Honorable Patrick Leahy
    The Honorable Patty Murray
    The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
    The Honorable Dick Durbin
    The Honorable Jack Reed
    The Honorable Jon Tester
    The Honorable Tom Udall
    The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
    The Honorable Jeff Merkley
    The Honorable Christopher Coons
    The Honorable Brian Schatz
    The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
    The Honorable Chris Murphy

    The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
    The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
    The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
    The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
    The Honorable Kay Granger
    The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
    The Honorable John Culberson
    The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
    The Honorable John R. Carter
    The Honorable Ken Calvert
    The Honorable Tom Cole
    The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
    The Honorable Charles W. Dent
    The Honorable Tom Graves
    The Honorable Kevin Yoder
    The Honorable Steve Womack
    The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
    The Honorable Tom Rooney
    The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
    The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
    The Honorable David Joyce
    The Honorable David Valadao
The Honorable Andy Harris, MD
The Honorable Martha Roby
The Honorable Mark Amodei
The Honorable Chris Stewart
The Honorable Scott Rigell
The Honorable David Jolly
The Honorable David Young
The Honorable Evan Jenkins
The Honorable Steven Palazzo
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
The Honorable José E. Serrano
The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
The Honorable David E. Price
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
The Honorable Sam Farr
The Honorable Chaka Fattah
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop
The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Michael M. Honda
The Honorable Betty McCollum
The Honorable Steve Israel
The Honorable Tim Ryan
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
The Honorable Henry Cuellar
The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Mike Quigley
The Honorable Derek Kilmer
A call to action by American industry, higher education, science, and engineering leaders urging Congress to enact policies and make investments that ensure the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Our nation knows what it takes to innovate: a sustained commitment to scientific research, a world-class workforce, and an economic climate that rewards entrepreneurship and innovation. As the most dynamic and prosperous nation in the world, the United States has long benefited from policies and investments that have promoted innovation and in turn driven productivity and economic growth. That, bolstered American trade, ensured our health and national security, and safeguarded the American dream. Our leadership is now at risk because of years of under-prioritizing federal scientific research investments and policies that promote innovation.

Now is not the time to rest on past success. As noted by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in its 2014 Report *Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream*, "There is a deficit between what America is investing and what it should be investing to remain competitive, not only in research but in innovation and job creation.” Competitor nations are challenging our leadership by copying our playbook for success. At the same time our nation’s support for scientific research and innovation is stagnating. If these trends continue, other countries will soon surpass the United States as the global innovation leader.

We must heed the warnings in the *Restoring the Foundation* report and other salient reports of the past decade and act decisively. In particular, Congress must:

- **Renew the federal commitment to scientific discovery** by ending sequestration’s deep cuts to discretionary spending caps and providing steady and sustained real growth in funding of at least four percent for basic scientific research at: the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, the Department of Defense, NASA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, USDA, and NOAA;

- **Make permanent a strengthened federal R&D tax credit** as a part of comprehensive tax reform to encourage more private-sector innovation investment here in America instead of in competitor countries;

- **Improve student achievement in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM)** through increased funding of proven programs and incentives for science and math teacher recruitment and professional development;

- **Reform U.S. visa policy** to welcome and keep highly educated international professionals, particularly those holding STEM degrees from U.S. universities;

- **Take steps to streamline or eliminate costly and inefficient regulations** and practices governing federally funded research to help unburden researchers to focus more time on conducting research and training the next generation of scientists, engineers, health care professionals, and business leaders;

- **Reaffirm merit-based peer review** as the primary mechanism major federal agencies should employ in making competitive scientific research grants to ensure the most effective use of taxpayer dollars; and

- **Stimulate further improvements in advanced manufacturing** through support for programs aimed at accelerating manufacturing innovation and new federal-industry-academic partnerships.

We, the signatories, urge support for these actions to keep the United States the global innovation leader. We stand ready to do our part.

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**Signature Line**

Samuel R. Allen
Chairman & CEO
John Deere

Norman R. Augustine
Co-Chair
Restoring the Foundation

Wes Bush
Chairman, President & CEO
Northrop Grumman

Kenneth C. Frazier
Chairman & CEO
Merck & Co., Inc

Marillyn A. Hewson
Chairman, President, & CEO
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Charles O. Holliday
Chairman
Royal Dutch Shell plc

Joseph Jimenez
CEO
Novartis

W. James McNerney, Jr.
Chairman of the Board & CEO
The Boeing Company

Satya Nadella
CEO
Microsoft

Jay Timmons
President & CEO
National Association of Manufacturers