



# TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

Aerospace Industries Association  
Agilent Technologies  
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Statistical Association  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
ASME  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of University Research Parks  
Autodesk  
The Babcock & Wilcox Company  
Battelle  
Business Roundtable  
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies  
Computing Research Association  
Computing Technology Industry Association  
Council for Chemical Research  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
Council on Competitiveness  
Cray Inc.  
Dow Chemical Company  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
The Geological Society of America  
Google, Inc.  
IBM Corporation  
IEEE-USA  
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries  
Industrial Research Institute  
Infineon Technologies  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Innovation Advocates  
Intel Corporation  
Jellen Ventures  
Luna Innovations, Inc.  
Materials Research Society  
Microsoft Corporation  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences  
National Center for Women & Information Technology  
National User Facility Organization  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
Procter & Gamble Company  
Qualcomm  
SEMI  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Semiconductor Research Corporation  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Southeastern Universities Research Association  
TechAmerica  
TechNet  
Technology CEO Council  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
Texas Instruments Incorporated

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Members Lowey and Mikulski:

The Task Force on American Innovation applauds your recent efforts to boost funding for scientific and technological research in the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. For the first time in several years, many research agencies will now receive funding at or near pre-sequestration levels, and the passage of a permanent R&D tax credit will help U.S. companies make long-term investments.

As you begin the FY 2017 appropriations process and develop the 302 (b) allocations, we urge you to continue making scientific research a top priority. The many companies, universities, and scientific and engineering societies represented by the Task Force agree that America's role as the world innovation leader is in danger, and unless our nation changes course we will lose not only our lead, but also lose the benefits to our economy and national security that stem from being first in the world in innovation.

From 2003 to 2013, according to The National Science Board's just-released *2016 Science & Engineering Indicators*, the U.S. share of the world's R&D fell from 35 percent to 27 percent, while the share of worldwide R&D performed by Asian countries grew from 27 percent to 40 percent. Other nations have significantly increased their pace of R&D investment at the very time the U.S. has slowed ours.

These developments threaten to create an innovation deficit, with significant economic and national security consequences for our country. You have an opportunity in the FY 2017 appropriations process to take significant steps to help prevent this innovation deficit and maintain our nation's innovation and economic leadership. We urge you to ensure that the FY 2017 302 (b) allocations for the Commerce-Justice-Science and Energy and Water Development Subcommittees will support strong investments in scientific research at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, NASA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. We also urge you to send a strong signal in the allocations process for needed scientific research investments in other agencies, especially the basic research accounts within the Department of Defense.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees