

## TALKING POINTS ON COMPETES BILL

- Reauthorizing the America COMPETES Act is vital to advancing science and engineering research in the U.S., essential role in ensuring the nation's future economic strength and competitiveness, national and homeland security, and educational capacity in key disciplines.
- The House COMPETES bill (H.R. 5116) builds upon the 2007 COMPETES Act, which enjoyed strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate. COMPETES provides a framework for bolstering our nation's commitment to investments in basic science and engineering research and in STEM education.
- The urgent global economic challenges highlighted in the National Academies' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," have not abated. Other nations are rapidly building greater research capacity and investing strategically in science and technology--such as clean, efficient, cheap energy technologies--to advance their international competitiveness. Congressional approval of the COMPETES Act is a signal to the rest of the world that the United States intends to continue to provide global S&T leadership.
- We continue to strongly support the authorization levels for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology approved by the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 5116.
- The authorization levels contained in H.R. 5116 already stretch out the original path for doubling research funding in the physical sciences that the bipartisan leadership of Congress and successive Administrations of both parties have supported. We believe further weakening these goals would undermine the nation's long-term economic competitiveness and our continued leadership in cutting-edge research and technology in a world where our global position is increasingly being challenged.
- Reducing budget deficits and slowing the growth of our national debt are essential to the nation's long-term economic well-being. However, the investments in research, innovation, and STEM education contained in the House COMPETES bill are equally essential and inextricably linked to a healthy economic future. Businesses facing serious downturns do not stop investing in their future. It would be short-sighted and imprudent for the nation to ignore this basic wisdom.
- The importance of the COMPETES Act to U.S. competitiveness and our economy is demonstrated by the broad-based support that the House bill (H.R. 5116) enjoys from the business community. Business organizations which have urged passage of the bill in recent days include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Business Roundtable, and the Task Force on American Innovation.
- Examples of how investments in research result in economic growth can be found in a recent report of The Science Coalition, "Sparking Economic Growth." The report describes the success stories of 100 companies that have grown out of federal investments in basic

research. Collectively, these 100 companies employ well over 100,000 people and have annual revenues approaching \$100 billion.

- We are committed to working with Congress on issues in the bill that we believe need to be addressed. Of particular concern is the amendment to H.R. 5116 offered by Representative George Miller (D-CA) and adopted by the House regarding public universities' compliance with labor union information requests.
- We agree that universities must comply with all lawful requests. Additionally, we believe that requiring the federal research agencies to interpret and enforce state labor laws could seriously impair the quality of American science.
- We seek to work with Representative Miller, the House leadership, and House Science Committee Chairman Bart Gordon to ameliorate harmful and unintended consequences of the amendment.

*18 May 2010*