

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Thomas R. Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

As over 200 university presidents have stated in an [open letter](#) to President Obama and the U.S. Congress “[t]he combination of eroding federal investments in research and higher education, additional cuts due to sequestration, and the enormous resources other nations are pouring into these areas is creating a new kind of deficit for the United States: *an innovation deficit.*” We write now, as leading higher education, research, science and business organizations to urge you to send a clear signal that the U.S. Congress is serious about closing the innovation deficit by introducing and passing a strong America COMPETES Act reauthorization bill that authorizes increased funding for key U.S. science agencies.

In both 2007 and 2010, the U.S. Congress passed COMPETES legislation with bipartisan support. With the passage of these bills, Congress established funding targets aimed at doubling funding for these key federal research agencies within seven years with the goal of ensuring continued U.S. leadership in science and technology which provides the foundation for our global and economic competitiveness. These bills sent an important message to the world that our nation and Congress were resolute about addressing concerns raised about the future health of the United States economy by the 2007 National Academies Report “*Rising Above the Gathering Storm.*” This report came in response to a request from a bipartisan group of Senators and House Members who asked what actions policy makers needed to take “...to enhance the science and technology enterprise so that the United States can successfully compete, prosper, and be secure in the global community of the 21st century”.

Despite the difficulty of achieving the doubling goal for research funding in the current fiscal environment, we strongly believe a core component of a renewed America COMPETES Act – and one that will be essential for our support – must be to set funding targets that call for *real* and *sustained* growth in funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), Department of Energy Office of Science, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E).

We stand ready to work with you to make the case to the public and other Members of Congress that the federal government must close the innovation deficit by making robust investments in science and education if we are to remain the world’s innovation leader and continue to reap the economic and national security benefits of such investments.

Anything short of real and sustained growth in federal science investments will take our country backward as other nations surge forward in their efforts to mimic America’s success.

Sincerely,

The Following Endorsing Organizations (as of October 9, 2013):

Aerospace Industries Association
Alaska SeaLife Center
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University
Arizona State University
Arizona Technology Council
ASME
Association for Psychological Science
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
Association for Women Geoscientists
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Universities
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
ASTRA, the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Auburn University
Battelle
Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium – BASIC
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Binghamton University, the State University of New York
Boise State
Boston University
Brown University

Business-Higher Education Forum
California State University, Fullerton
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Center for Coastal Marine Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies (C-PET)
Champaign County Economic Development Corporation
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory – University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
CleanTECH San Diego
Clemson University
Coalition for National Science Funding
Cognitive Science Society
Columbia University
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
CompTIA
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences, Inc.
Council for Energy Research and Education Leaders
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Competitiveness
Council on Undergraduate Research
Cray, Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Duke University
Ecological Society of America
Electrical Geodesics, Inc. (EGI)
The Electrochemical Society
Emory University
Energy Sciences Coalition
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida Gulf Coast University Vester Marine Field Station
Florida Institute of Oceanography
Florida State University
Fox/Atkins Development LLC
Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, The Ohio State University
Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington
Fusion Power Associates
Geological Society of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Research Alliance, Inc.
Georgia State University
Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce

Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Grice Marine Lab, College of Charleston
Harvard University
Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii
Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Humboldt State University Marine Laboratory
IEEE-USA
Indiana University
Information Technology Industry Council
Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University
Institute of Marine Sciences, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Intel Corporation
International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)
International Society for Developmental Psychology
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
Kachemak Bay Marine Lab, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Kent State University
Kewalo Marine Laboratory, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Krell Institute
Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth
Linguistic Society of America
Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA
Marine Sciences Center at the University of New England
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Microsoft
Mississippi State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Mote Marine Laboratory
Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory
National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Cave and Karst Research Institute
National Communication Association
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Ecological Observatory Network, Inc.
National Science Teachers Association
Natural Science Collections Alliance
New Mexico State University

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North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (NACSN)
North Carolina State University
North Carolina State University, Center for Marine Sciences and Technology
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
The Ohio State University
The Optical Society
Orange County Business Council
ORAU (Oak Ridge Associated Universities)
Oregon Entrepreneurs Network
Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI)
Oregon State University
Pace University
Paleontological Society
PARC, a Xerox Company
The Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America
Portland Business Alliance
Portland State University
Prince William Sound Science Center
Princeton University
Procter & Gamble Company
Psychonomic Society
Purdue University
QB3
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Rutgers University Marine Field Station
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco State University, Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies
Savannah State University
The Science Coalition
Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory, University of Florida
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Seismological Society of America
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Shoals Marine Laboratory
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society of Economic Geologists
Society of Experimental Social Psychology
Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
South Dakota State University
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Southern Arizona Leadership Council
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
SRI International
SSTI (State Science and Technology Institute)
Stanford University
The State University of New York
Stony Brook University
SupraSensor Technologies
Task Force on American Innovation
Technology Councils of North America (TECNA)
TechVoice
TechX
Texas A&M University
Texas Instruments
TRIDEC
Tucson Metro Chamber
Tufts University
Tulane University
UNAVCO
University at Buffalo
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
University of Alaska, Southeast
University at Albany, State University of New York
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of California System
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida

University of Hawaii
University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Montana
University of Nebraska
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
University of New Hampshire
University of New Hampshire Jackson Estuarine Laboratory
University of New Mexico
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of South Dakota
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tennessee
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The University of Texas System
The University of Toledo
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Freshwater Sciences, Great Lakes WATER
Institute
University of Wyoming
Utah State University
Vaisala, Inc.
Valley Vision, Sacramento
Vanderbilt University
Van Fleet & Associates
Virginia Commonwealth University

Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
West Virginia University
Western Michigan University
Whitney Lab for Marine Bioscience
Willamette Innovators Network
Women in Technology Tennessee
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Southern California
Yale University

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Identical letters sent to:

Members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources