



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 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
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
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
The Science Coalition

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Ryan and Murray:

As you negotiate over the FY14 Budget, the Task Force on American Innovation urges you to reach an agreement that provides relief from the sequester and helps close our nation's innovation deficit by ensuring sustained and robust support for scientific research and STEM education. The many companies, universities, and scientific societies represented by the Task Force agree that unless we change course, America's role as the world innovation leader will be in danger, and our future prospects for economic growth bleak.

Even in its first year, sequestration has already harmed the U.S. scientific and research enterprise by slowing progress on continuing research endeavors and cutting off support altogether for new projects. We do not know what eventual breakthroughs have been lost, but we do know that past federal investments in scientific research have brought us life-changing innovations and advances, such as the Internet, better forecasting of severe weather, GPS, improved prosthetic limbs, and a reliable power grid. It is easy to take these innovations for granted, but we need to remember that they were born of federal investment.

We appreciate the broader fiscal pressures our nation faces and understand the need to address them. This coalition has consistently expressed support for a major long-term budget agreement that not only protects coming generations from unsustainable debt but also ensures that we are able to invest in their future. Without such an agreement, the growing innovation deficit – the gap between needed and actual federal investments in research and STEM education – will eventually allow other nations to charge ahead of us in the race for global preeminence. Sequestration cuts to research and STEM education are hitting at just the time when competing countries are significantly increasing their own investments in these areas.

The most effective way to help close the innovation deficit is to eliminate sequestration for the long-term. In the near-term, we strongly urge you to provide sequestration relief for FY2014. This will provide certainty to the federal science agencies engaged in basic research and the corporations, universities, and scientific societies that partner with them to achieve innovation breakthroughs. The Task Force on American Innovation looks forward to supporting you in this important effort.

Sincerely,
TFAI