



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

October 11, 2013

President Barack Obama
United States Senate
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear President Obama & Members of the 113th Congress:

As you consider the many fiscal challenges facing you in the weeks ahead – from the government shutdown to sequestration to the debt limit – the Task Force on American Innovation calls on you to resolve these issues in ways that help close our nation’s *innovation deficit* by ensuring sustained and robust support for scientific research and STEM education.

The *innovation deficit* is the widening gap between needed and actual federal support for STEM education and research, particularly compared to other nations that are dramatically increasing investments in those areas. These investments contribute significantly to long-term economic growth. More than 200 U.S. university presidents [have signed a letter](#) sent to you this summer urging you to close the innovation deficit. And more than a dozen national business associations [sent you a letter](#) in September echoing that message.

The many companies, universities, and scientific societies that this Task Force represents share their view that our role as the world’s innovation leader is in serious jeopardy due to inadequate federal support for research and STEM education. We believe that America must maintain a commitment to its competitiveness and future innovation capabilities. This commitment is vital to short- and long-term economic growth, especially in the competitive global economy.

We understand the broader fiscal pressures our nation faces and applaud your focus on this fundamental challenge. Indeed, this coalition has frequently urged you to come together and negotiate a major long-term budget agreement that not only protects coming generations from unsustainable debt but also ensures our ability to invest in their future. However, undermining the nation’s support for research and STEM education will not help resolve this problem; instead it will exacerbate it, slowing down the engine that drives the innovation and economic growth that are necessary to long-term deficit and debt reduction.

Wise decisions now can create a powerful legacy for future generations of Americans. We call upon you to close the innovation deficit by recommitting to strong and sustained federal support for research and STEM education. We stand ready to partner with you in this effort.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation

www.innovationtaskforce.org