

TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

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

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

Semiconductor Industry Association

Semiconductor Research Corporation

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Southeastern Universities Research Association

Teeh A merice

TechAmerica

TechNet

Technology CEO Council

Telecommunications Industry Association

Texas Instruments Incorporated

The Science Coalition

July 18, 2012

United States Senate

Dear Senator:

As representatives of many of the nation's leading companies, universities, and scientific societies, we are writing to urge your support for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in S. 2323, the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2013.

We ask that you support providing NSF at least the level of funding approved by the Senate Committee on Appropriations and oppose amendments that would reduce overall funding or bar funding for particular disciplines.

Technological innovation, medical advances, our national security, the training of young scientists, and our economic future all depend on the research funded by NSF and other federal science agencies. We should be steadily increasing this important investment, not reducing it.

Our nation's private sector conducts nearly \$300 billion in R&D annually. However, it focuses mainly on development; businesses today cannot risk the uncertainty of major investments in basic research. That is why there has been a bipartisan consensus since World War II that supporting basic research, which takes place mainly at universities and U.S. laboratories, is primarily the role of the federal government.

We are concerned about the possibility of amendments that would harm NSF being offered during Senate consideration of S. 2323 and urge you to oppose them. One such amendment, defeated during House consideration, was designed to take NSF resources back five years, to near FY2008 levels, and even further back if adjusted for inflation. A cut of this magnitude would mean the loss of 3,800 research grants affecting 44,000 researchers, students, technicians, and others involved in conducting this research. Additionally, such an amendment would seriously damage NSF's STEM education programs, which are crucial to the nation's efforts to produce more graduates in STEM fields, an important national goal that holds particular significance for our industry and academic members alike.

A second amendment, which did pass the House, would bar NSF from supporting research in the field of political science. We oppose any amendments that bar NSF research for entire disciplines or fields of research. We do not believe that Congress should try to pick winners and losers when it comes to NSF's basic research portfolio. NSF is the government agency with responsibility for supporting basic research across the range of scientific disciplines. Cutting off funds for a particular discipline would undermine NSF's cross-cutting research mission. We urge you to oppose this or other amendments to restrict NSF support for certain disciplines.

We appreciate your consideration of our views on these issues.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation