

October 9, 2013

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

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  
NextEd

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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Identical letters sent to:

Members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions



Endorsing Organizations Added After Original Hill Circulation (as of November 5, 2013):

American Association of Petroleum Geologists

Eugene Chamber of Commerce

NorTech