

February 28, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic House Leader, House of
Representatives

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader, House of Representatives

Dear Members of Congress:

In this time of great budget difficulties, we are writing to remind you that budget cuts alone will not lead to economic growth. Even in times of austerity, investment in scientific research is vital to ensuring our country's long-term prosperity and competitiveness. The U.S. simply cannot afford drastic, indiscriminate cuts to federal science research and development programs. While it is true that we are facing challenging economic decisions and must take measures to reduce our federal deficit, we must do so in a thoughtful, responsible way.

A healthy science program is one of the essential components to ensuring a healthy economy. Many technologies now central to daily life - including the Internet, GPS technology, lasers, and microchips - were initially funded by federal research dollars. Scientists and engineers need your support in order to continue to break new ground in our understanding of scientific principles and their applications.

Scientific advances often allow people to reach beyond what was thought possible. Indeed, America was discovered because of that spirit, and today it allows us to lead the world in cutting-edge innovation. While reducing deficits is necessary for achieving long-term prosperity, it is equally necessary that we continue to prioritize spending on science and technology. For more than half a century, breakthrough scientific and engineering research has provided the foundation for US innovation and economic growth. As our economy slowly rebounds, now is not the time to break that trend.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if our societies can provide any additional support or information as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Acoustical Society of America
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in
America
American Chemical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Association of Physics Teachers

American Association for the Advancement
of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics

American Mathematical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
ASME
American Statistical Association
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
AVS Science & Technology of Materials,
Interfaces, & Processing
Biophysical Society
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council on Undergraduate Research
Federation of American Societies for
Experimental Biology
Federation of Materials Societies
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Materials Research Society
Natural Science Collections Alliance
Research!America
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
SPIE
Stand with Science
The Optical Society
University Corporation for Atmospheric
Research (UCAR)