

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William Frist
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Majority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

As leaders in the science, technology, education, and business communities, we support both the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and the Congressional focus on ensuring future U.S. competitiveness.

President Bush's plan and other related congressional initiatives would improve math and science education and reinvigorate the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology core programs, among others. During the State of the Union, the President highlighted that "preparing our nation to compete in the world is a goal that all of us can share." We agree, and we urge you -- our nation's political leaders -- to support the initiative and work together to legislate a comprehensive innovation policy that will assure our nation's future success.

For more than half a century, the United States has been the clear leader in developing new technologies, products, and entire industries that provide high-value jobs for Americans and have enabled us to maintain economic and military leadership. The U.S. also has led in dramatic enhancements to quality of life through breakthrough medical research and technologies.

These achievements have all been based on the flow of new discoveries-- an extraordinary number of them emanating from basic research funded by the federal government. Advancing the state of knowledge in such important areas as physics, chemistry, materials science, mathematics, computer sciences and engineering requires a commitment by the federal government to invest in scientific research and education. This commitment, coupled with an entrepreneurial business climate, lays the groundwork for innovation by businesses.

In a world where many nations now compete on the basis of cost and quality, innovation has become the key arbiter of competitiveness. Other nations are embracing market reforms and increasing investments in science and engineering. The competition for knowledge and productivity has changed fundamentally. We must respond by strengthening our ability to generate new knowledge and by being the best in the world at translating knowledge into commercial and societal value. Our national wealth, our economic growth, and our role as the world's leading power all depend on this.

America has many resources to accomplish this task – not the least of which is our ability to recognize when change is required and action is necessary. We offer our assistance to you and other leaders in Congress to achieve the goals that are embodied in the American Competitiveness Initiative and the congressional innovation initiatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

3M Company
ACE Clearwater Enterprises
Advanced Systems Research, Inc.
Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Dental Association
American Electronics Association
American Geological Institute
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society of Agronomy
Applied Materials
ASME
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Medical Colleges
Battelle
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
EDUCAUSE
Electronic Industries Alliance
Federation of Materials Societies
FIATECH
Fusion Power Associates
Geological Society of America
Hewlett-Packard
IEEE-USA
Information Technology Association of America
Intel Corporation.
Internet 2
IPC–Association Connecting Electronics Industries
Joint Oceanographic Institutions
Materials Research Society
Museum of Science, Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Science Teachers Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Semiconductor Corporation

National Venture Capital Association
Optical Society of America
Raytheon Missile Systems
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI)
Siemens Corp
Society for Neuroscience
Soil Science Society of America
Southeastern Universities Research Association
SPIE–The International Society for Optical Engineering
TechNet
The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Vanderbilt University