



November 12, 2014

Dear Member of Congress:

The 133 undersigned national business, higher education, scientific, patient, and other organizations write to strongly urge you to pass an omnibus FY2015 appropriations bill this year that includes increased investments in scientific research and higher education needed to help close our nation's innovation deficit.

Members of the Senate and House from both political parties have highlighted the need to address the innovation deficit. Congress has already taken some preliminary steps in this direction. In most instances, individual appropriations bills considered by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees would provide for increased investments in scientific research at the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, NASA, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the Department of Defense's science and technology programs, and other federal research agencies. However, none of this matters if Congress makes FY2015 appropriations through a continuing resolution.

As many of us noted in our [testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee](#) earlier this year, the innovation deficit is the widening gap between the actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader. As the global innovation leader, we produce more discoveries and patents, and more technological and health advances, than any other nation. Economists have made very clear that these science-and engineering-driven advances have fueled most of our nation's economic growth in the decades since World War II. Yet today, our leadership faces a serious challenge from other nations that are rapidly increasing their investments in these critical areas while our own spending lags.

The fact that other nations are building up their research and innovation capabilities is not a bad thing. The world benefits from stronger research and education in other countries as well as our own. What should concern us is that those other nations are doing this while the United States is essentially standing still. This poses a serious challenge to our position as the world's innovation leader, and the economic and national security benefits that flow from it. Global leadership is a race, and we will lose by standing still. Bill Green, former CEO of Accenture, perhaps said it best in 2012: "All these other countries—India, China, Russia, you name it—they aspire to be like us because they realize how we got where we got. It's because of the national research infrastructure and ecosystem we have. They aspire to that and they're going to have that. But we've got to be gone when they get there." As modern Americans, we are accustomed to the economic, health, and national security benefits that emanate from our position as the global innovation leader – and we want our children, and their children, to enjoy them as well. If we lose our global leadership, we will lose the valuable collateral that comes with it, and those losses will occur quickly.

Our nation cannot compete effectively or close its innovation deficit by funding science and higher education through continuing resolutions. Past continuing resolutions have disrupted the scientific grants process, suspended and impaired ongoing research projects, and caused uncertainty to our nation's scientific and innovation enterprise. Other nations are enacting long-term strategic plans and making the necessary investments to out-compete the United States. Meanwhile, our nation is losing ground by insufficiently investing in scientific research and education and shackling itself with visionless continuing resolutions.

Your leadership is needed to make scientific research and higher education a priority in final FY15 omnibus appropriations legislation, and to take real steps this year toward closing the innovation deficit.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of Radiology Research  
Aerospace Industries Association  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association for Thoracic Surgery  
American Association of Anatomists  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Astronomical Society  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Chemical Society  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American Council on Education  
American Educational Research Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Heart Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Mathematical Society  
American Pancreatic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Political Science Association  
American Sociological Association  
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities  
American Society for Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Statistical Association  
American Surgical Association  
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization  
Association for Academic Surgery  
Association for Surgical Education  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Geographers

Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy  
Bay Area Council  
Biophysical Society  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Business-Higher Education Forum  
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Coalition for National Science Funding  
Coalition for National Security Research  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council on Competitiveness  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Crop Science Society of America  
Deadliest Cancers Coalition  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Ecological Society of America  
Energy Sciences Coalition  
Entomological Society of America  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society  
IEEE-USA  
Industrial Research Institute  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Lupus Research Institute  
Materials Research Society  
Mathematical Association of America  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Certification Council for Activity Professionals  
National Ground Water Association

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
National Pancreas Foundation  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
Older Women's League  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pink Concussions, Inc.  
Population Association of America  
Research!America  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Semiconductor Research Corporation  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Surgical Chairs  
Society of University Urologists  
Society of Urology Chairpersons and Program Directors  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southeastern Universities Research Association  
Stand With Science  
Task Force on American Innovation  
The Geological Society of America  
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
The Endocrine Society  
The Optical Society  
The Science Coalition  
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance  
United for Medical Research  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research