November 5, 2009

The Honorable Peter Orszag
Director, Office of Management and Budget
252 Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

As development of the FY 2011 budget moves forward, the Task Force on American Innovation, a coalition of companies, universities and scientific societies that advocates for increased federal investment for research in the physical sciences and engineering, would like to thank the President for his focus on science and innovation in the FY 2010 budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). We also want to express our strong and continued support for increased and sustained federal investment in programs that promote basic scientific and engineering research and science education for FY 2011.

We are especially grateful for President Obama's ongoing commitment to double the research budgets of key agencies that emphasize the physical sciences and engineering, which he emphasized in his September 21st speech at Hudson Valley Community College.

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, enabling us to maintain our economic, technological and national defense leadership. Basic research conducted in the U.S. has led to dramatic enhancements to quality of life through breakthrough medical technologies, the creation of new industries in telecommunications, and has strengthened our nation's security by making possible advanced technologies for our national defense.

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, engineering and life sciences 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.

We understand fully that the current fiscal climate will constrain the FY 2011 budget. But in setting priorities, we urge you to continue to give high priority to the areas of federal investment that are most likely to provide the greatest long-term return to the American people**,** namely investments that strengthen our scientific and technological capabilities.

The science and technology-related agencies and programs of particular concern to the Task Force include the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of Defense.

In summary, predictable, sustainable long-term research provides the basis for the nation's economic growth, high standard of living, and security. Therefore, we urge you to continue to make the doubling of investments in key federal research agencies a high priority in the President's FY 2011 budget request and beyond. Thank you for considering our views, and we look forward to working with you as the development of the budget progresses.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Otellini
President and CEO
Intel Corporation

Jeffrey Wadsworth
President and CEO
Battelle

Henry Yang
Chancellor
University of California, Santa Barbara
Chair, Association of American Universities

Lee T. Todd, Jr.
President
University of Kentucky
Chair, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Bruce Brown
Chief Technology Officer
The Procter & Gamble Company

Thomas Lane
President
American Chemical Society