



TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

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INNOVATION TASK FORCE PRAISES PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR INVESTMENT IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Following is a statement by the [Task Force on American Innovation](#) on President Obama's FY11 budget:

The Task Force on American Innovation applauds President Obama's continuing commitment to science and innovation, which is reflected in his new budget. The President clearly recognizes that our nation cannot return to full prosperity unless we invest consistently in the science and innovation that are the foundation of long-term economic growth and the kind of high-paying jobs our people need.

As an alliance of America's most innovative companies, leading research universities, and major scientific societies, this Task Force understands the need for fiscal discipline. At the same time, the President and Congressional leaders have made clear that they view basic research as an investment in national prosperity. Even in a downturn, forward-looking companies maintain their key investments, and our nation should do the same.

We believe the nation's system of innovation requires strong federal support for basic research, especially in the physical sciences and engineering. For over half a century, federal support of basic research has led to the kinds of advances that made this country the unquestioned global leader in technology and innovation in a host of fields. It strengthens our economy while it helps to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers.

We commend the President for submitting a budget that invests in the physical sciences and engineering even as he makes other difficult decisions about federal spending, and we hope that Congress will sustain its own support for these critical investments.

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The [Task Force on American Innovation](#), a coalition of businesses and business organizations, scientific societies, and higher education associations, was founded in 2004 to advocate greater federal investments for basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. The group focuses on the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the Department of Defense research budget, the National Institute of Standards and Technology labs at the Department of Commerce, and NASA.