



# TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

Aerospace Industries Association  
Agilent Technologies  
Alliance for Science & Technology Research  
in America  
American Association for the Advancement  
of Science  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Institute for Medical and  
Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Statistical Association  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
ASME  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of University Research Parks  
Autodesk  
Battelle  
Business Roundtable  
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies  
Computing Research Association  
Computing Technology Industry Association  
Council for Chemical Research  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
Council on Competitiveness  
Cray Inc.  
Dow Chemical Company  
Federation of American Societies for  
Experimental Biology  
The Geological Society of America  
Google, Inc.  
IBM Corporation  
IEEE-USA  
Industrial Research Institute  
Infineon Technologies  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Innovation Advocates  
Intel Corporation  
Jellen Ventures  
Luna Innovations, Inc.  
Materials Research Society  
Microsoft Corporation  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences  
National Center for Women &  
Information Technology  
National User Facility Organization  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
Procter & Gamble Company  
Qualcomm  
SEMI  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Semiconductor Research Corporation  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Southeastern Universities Research Association  
TechAmerica  
TechNet  
Technology CEO Council  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
Texas Instruments Incorporated  
The Science Coalition

October 11, 2013

President Barack Obama  
United States Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear President Obama & Members of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress:

As you consider the many fiscal challenges facing you in the weeks ahead – from the government shutdown to sequestration to the debt limit – the Task Force on American Innovation calls on you to resolve these issues in ways that help close our nation’s *innovation deficit* by ensuring sustained and robust support for scientific research and STEM education.

The *innovation deficit* is the widening gap between needed and actual federal support for STEM education and research, particularly compared to other nations that are dramatically increasing investments in those areas. These investments contribute significantly to long-term economic growth. More than 200 U.S. university presidents [have signed a letter](#) sent to you this summer urging you to close the innovation deficit. And more than a dozen national business associations [sent you a letter](#) in September echoing that message.

The many companies, universities, and scientific societies that this Task Force represents share their view that our role as the world’s innovation leader is in serious jeopardy due to inadequate federal support for research and STEM education. We believe that America must maintain a commitment to its competitiveness and future innovation capabilities. This commitment is vital to short- and long-term economic growth, especially in the competitive global economy.

We understand the broader fiscal pressures our nation faces and applaud your focus on this fundamental challenge. Indeed, this coalition has frequently urged you to come together and negotiate a major long-term budget agreement that not only protects coming generations from unsustainable debt but also ensures our ability to invest in their future. However, undermining the nation’s support for research and STEM education will not help resolve this problem; instead it will exacerbate it, slowing down the engine that drives the innovation and economic growth that are necessary to long-term deficit and debt reduction.

Wise decisions now can create a powerful legacy for future generations of Americans. We call upon you to close the innovation deficit by recommitting to strong and sustained federal support for research and STEM education. We stand ready to partner with you in this effort.

Sincerely,

*Task Force on American Innovation*

[www.innovationtaskforce.org](http://www.innovationtaskforce.org)