

April 10th, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) – an alliance of leading American companies and business associations, research university associations, and scientific societies – writes to thank you for providing robust growth in funding for key research agencies in H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018.

As ninety-five businesses, scientific and engineering societies, and universities led by TFAI wrote in February, robust and sustained federal investment in scientific research is essential to strengthening our economic and national security. The increased funding provided in H.R. 1625 for science and engineering research at DOD; the Department of Energy; NASA; the National Science Foundation (NSF); and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for FY 2018 will support the development of new technologies to secure our nation, improve our energy security, and generate the new ideas, technologies, and even entirely new industries that will ensure we enjoy sustained, long-term economic growth.

Passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 following the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 is a clear demonstration of the Congress's longstanding bipartisan commitment to fueling American innovation. As the Congress now turns quickly to FY 2019 appropriations, the Task Force and broader science and technology community look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that federal funding for science and engineering research continues to be a top priority.

Sincerely,



Kathleen N. Kingscott
Co-Chair
Task Force on American Innovation



Joshua H. Shiode
Co-Chair
Task Force on American Innovation

CC: Speaker Paul Ryan, U.S. House of Representatives
Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate
Democratic Leader Charles Schumer, U.S. Senate
Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Former Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member, Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chairwoman, Defense Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Pete Visclosky, Ranking Member, Defense Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jose Serrano, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations