



Task Force on American Innovation

Securing the future through research in the physical sciences and engineering

September 19, 2018

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

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Defense Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Durbin, Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky:

The Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI)—an alliance of industry, scientific societies, and university organizations—commends you and your colleagues for your work in the FY19 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. Your support for vital research and development (R&D) programs contained in this package will drive new discoveries, innovations and superior technologies for our national defense. On behalf of American industry and American higher education, we are grateful for your leadership on this key issue.

TFAI appreciates the robust funding for R&D and is encouraged by the investment of \$94.9 billion in Department of Defense (DOD) Research, Development, Test and Evaluation and \$16 billion in DOD's Science and Technology accounts (6.1-6.3), providing a 7.5 and 8 percent increase, respectively. These strong investments in defense scientific research will help spur the discoveries needed to develop technology and capabilities that will support the warfighter today and tomorrow. Additionally, this crucial funding ultimately supports the U.S. economy and advances U.S. global competitiveness all while ensuring strong national security.

Again, thank you for your leadership in supporting defense research for Fiscal Year 2019. Moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance in continuing to support your efforts to fund these vital national defense programs.

Sincerely,

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IBM (Co-Chair)

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Applied Materials, Inc.
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