



April 4, 2011

Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and House and Appropriations Committee Leaders:

The Task Force on American Innovation shares your concern about the size of our budget deficits and our growing national debt. We believe that the spending cuts needed to help address this problem should be implemented strategically, with an eye toward the future economic vitality of the United States.

As you work to enact legislation to complete appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011, we urge you to avoid reductions in funding for scientific research and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education programs supported by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

It is our view that continued strong funding of scientific research and STEM education programs would help ensure the economic growth needed to restore long-term fiscal strength and national prosperity. As the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, headed by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson, stated: "Cut and invest to promote economic growth and keep America competitive. We should cut red tape and unproductive government spending that hinders job creation and growth. At the same time, we must invest in education, infrastructure,

and high-value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for businesses to create jobs.”

Unfortunately, the cuts to scientific research and STEM education included in H.R. 1 take the opposite approach to that recommended by the Commission. The likely impact of those cuts is outlined by the Task Force in the attached letter to Senate leaders. It is our hope that, however you resolve the FY11 impasse, the House and Senate can agree to avoid these cuts, which jeopardize U.S. competitiveness and long-term economic growth.

In addition to the aforementioned letter, please also find attached the following:

- A March 9 letter to the Senate on the same subject by the Tapping America’s Potential coalition led by the Business Roundtable, and by the Semiconductor Industry Association;
- A February 28 letter to the Senate on the same subject from the Council on Competitiveness;
- A January 2 column by George Will from the Washington Post entitled [*Rev the Scientific Engine*](#);
- A March 3 column by Mort Kondracke from Roll Call entitled *GOP Budget Torches America's 'Seed Corn'*; and
- A March 3 column by former Department of Energy Undersecretary for Science Raymond Orbach from *Science* magazine entitled [*Research Vital to Economic Growth*](#).

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN INNOVATION

ATTACHMENTS

CC: Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Whip
Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip
All House Members