



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 Geophysical Union
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
The Babcock & Wilcox Company
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
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries
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

December 8, 2016

Mr. Donald J. Trump
Office of the President-elect
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

The Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI), a coalition of businesses, trade groups, scientific and engineering societies, and university organizations, looks forward to working with you, as the 45th President of the United States. As you form your administration, we ask that you make support for federally funded research in science, engineering, and mathematics a top priority for restoring American competitiveness and returning long-term prosperity and job growth to our economy.

America is a world leader in scientific research and innovation. Maintaining our nation's competitive economic advantage is becoming more difficult with each passing year in an increasingly globalized world economy. Innovative, research-dependent industries are critical to our nation's competitiveness. Funding that supports research and makes possible the transfer of discoveries from the laboratory to the market is vital for protecting and enhancing America's industries and the jobs they provide.

Over the second half of the 20th century, our nation's leaders made investments in scientific research a bipartisan priority, recognizing that discoveries achieved through consistent federal support of research often stimulate productivity, drive economic growth, and create jobs for Americans. One example of such research can be found in the field of nuclear physics, where research investments directly contributed to the development of the magnetic resonance imaging, or the MRI.

Unfortunately, the federal investments responsible in part for the explosive growth of the 20th century have been limited in recent years. Per 2016 data from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the percentage of GDP invested in federal R&D today is at its lowest point since 1976. Approximately 0.78% of GDP was invested in research in 2016, as compared to 1.23% of GDP in 1976. This percentage is projected to decrease further in 2017 to 0.75%. Many agencies can fund only a small fraction of the quality research proposals they receive. This backlog is a direct result of constrained funding.

At the same time, our nation's strongest economic competitors around the world have prioritized long-term research funding to capture the very innovative opportunities our country is now leaving on the table. The independent Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) ranks the U.S. only 10th in its global innovation index, largely because our nation underinvests in long-term research. This imbalance threatens to create an innovation deficit, as other nations threaten our global economic leadership.

Simply put, innovation underpins job creation and economic growth, and federally funded research lays the foundation for innovation. We cannot afford to reduce our efforts while other countries threaten our leadership by funding the basic scientific research that is vital to tomorrow's innovation.

Therefore, to support your efforts to put Americans back to work again, as you develop your budget proposals, TFAI strongly urges you to direct your administration to prioritize robust investments in such research, particularly at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, the Department of Defense, NASA, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

www.innovationtaskforce.org

In addition, given your interest in investing in the nation's infrastructure, we would like to discuss the existing infrastructure modernization programs at NSF, DOE, and NIST. If sufficiently funded, these programs would, in short order, create thousands of new jobs in construction and high-tech engineering and manufacturing. These are immediate U.S. job opportunities, and the research conducted using this infrastructure would contribute to real long-term growth as well.

Few federal investments foster both short- and long-term economic growth the way that research does. We call on you to make this investment a cornerstone of your initiatives to drive innovation, job growth, and prosperity in our country.

Once your key advisory staff are in place, TFAI would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with those in your administration charged with overseeing federal research to discuss these issues and exchange ideas on how we can move forward effectively on funding and related policies. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact TFAI through our Executive Director, Stewart Young (stewart@corleydc.com), if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation