

INNOVATION: AN AMERICAN IMPERATIVE

A call to action by American industry, higher education, science, and engineering leaders urging Congress to enact policies and make investments that ensure the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Our nation knows what it takes to innovate: a sustained commitment to scientific research, a world-class workforce, and an economic climate that rewards entrepreneurship and innovation. As the most dynamic and prosperous nation in the world, the United States has long benefitted from policies and investments that have promoted innovation and in turn driven productivity and economic growth, bolstered American trade, ensured our health and national security, and safeguarded the American dream. Our leadership is now at risk because of years of under-prioritizing federal scientific research investments and policies that promote innovation.

Now is not the time to rest on past success. As noted by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in its 2014 Report *Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream*, "There is a deficit between what America is investing and what it should be investing to remain competitive, not only in research but in innovation and job creation." Competitor nations are challenging our leadership by copying our playbook for success. At the same time our nation's support for scientific research and innovation is stagnating. If these trends continue, other countries will soon surpass the United States as the global innovation leader.

We must heed the warnings in the *Restoring the Foundation* report and other salient reports of the past decade and act decisively. In particular, Congress must:

Renew the federal commitment to scientific discovery

by ending sequestration's deep cuts to discretionary spending caps and providing steady and sustained real growth in funding of at least four percent for basic scientific research at: the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the Department of Defense, NASA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, USDA, and NOAA;

Make permanent a strengthened federal R&D tax credit

as a part of comprehensive tax reform to encourage more private-sector innovation investment here in America instead of in competitor countries;

Improve student achievement in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM)

through increased funding of proven programs and incentives for science and math teacher recruitment and professional development;

Reform U.S. visa policy

to welcome and keep highly educated international professionals, particularly those holding STEM degrees from U.S. universities;

Take steps to streamline or eliminate costly and inefficient regulations

and practices governing federally funded research to help unburden researchers to focus more time on conducting research and training the next generation of scientists, engineers, health care professionals, and business leaders;

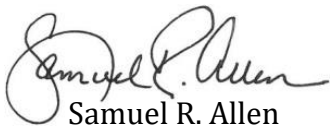
Reaffirm merit-based peer review

as the primary mechanism major federal agencies should employ in making competitive scientific research grants to ensure the most effective use of taxpayer dollars; and

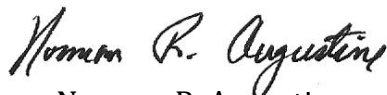
Stimulate further improvements in advanced manufacturing

through support for programs aimed at accelerating manufacturing innovation and new federal-industry-academic partnerships.

We, the signatories, urge support for these actions to keep the United States the global innovation leader. We stand ready to do our part.



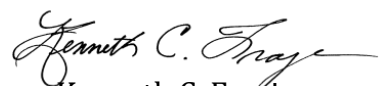
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Academy of Radiology Research
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 American Anthropological Association
 American Association for Dental Research
 American Association for the Advancement of Science
 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
 American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
 American Association of Petroleum Geologists
 American Association of Physical Anthropologists
 American Association of Physicists in Medicine
 American Association of Physics Teachers
 American Association of State Colleges and Universities
 American Astronomical Society
 American Chemical Society
 American Council on Education
 American Dairy Science Association
 American Dental Education Association
 American Educational Research Association
 American Geophysical Union
 American Geosciences Institute
 American Institute for Medical & Bio. Engineering
 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
 American Institute of Chemists
 American Institute of Physics
 American Mathematical Society
 American Meteorological Society
 American Physical Society
 American Physiological Society
 American Phytopathological Society
 American Political Science Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 American Society for Engineering Education
 American Society for Microbiology
 American Society for Nutrition
 American Society of Agronomy
 American Society of Animal Science
 American Society of Plant Biologists
 American Sociological Association
 American Veterinary Medical Association
 Ames Chamber of Commerce
 Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce
 Applied DNA Sciences, Inc.
 Applied Materials, Inc
 Archaeological Institute of America
 Arizona Nevada Academy of Science (ANAS)
 Arizona State University
 Arkansas Research Alliance
 Arkansas State University
 ASHRAE
 ASME
 Associated Industries of Florida
 Association for Information Science and Technology
 Association for Psychological Science
 Association for Women in Mathematics
 Association for Women in Science
 Association of American Geographers
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 Association of American Universities
 Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
 Association of Independent Research Institutes
 Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
 Association of Research Libraries
 Association of University Technology Managers
 ASTRA, Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
 Auburn University
 Austin Chamber of Commerce
 Avanti Biosciences
 Battelle
 Bay Area Council
 Binghamton University
 Biocogent LLC
 BioForward
 Biophysical Society
 BioStrategies LC
 Biotechnology Industry Organization
 Blood Cell Technologies
 Boise State University
 Bonded Energy Solutions Corporation
 Boston University
 Botanical Society of America
 Boulder Chamber of Commerce
 Brandeis University
 Brides Energy
 Brookhaven Chambers of Commerce Coalition
 Brookhaven Technology Group, Inc.
 Brown University
 Buffalo Niagara Partnership
 Buncee, LLC
 Business-Higher Education Forum
 Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire
 CA Technologies
 California Institute of Technology
 California Polytechnic State University
 California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
 California State University Maritime Academy
 The California State University System
 California State University, Bakersfield
 California State University, Channel Islands
 California State University, Chico
 California State University, Dominguez Hills
 California State University, East Bay
 California State University, Fresno
 California State University, Fullerton
 California State University, Long Beach
 California State University, Los Angeles
 California State University, Monterey Bay
 California State University, Northridge
 California State University, Sacramento
 California State University, San Bernardino
 California State University, San Marcos
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
 Case Western Reserve University
 Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies
 Central National Gottesman Inc.
 Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County
 Chemcubed
 Chem-Master International, Inc.
 Chermac Energy Corporation
 Chroma Research Labs, Inc.
 The City University of New York
 Clearpointe
 Cleveland State University
 Clemson University
 Coalition for Aerospace and Science
 Coalition for National Science Funding
 Coalition for National Security Research
 Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
 The College of William and Mary
 Colorado School of Mines
 Colorado State University
 Columbia University
 Computing Research Association
 Consortium for Ocean Leadership
 Consortium of Social Science Associations
 Cornell University
 Council of Graduate Schools
 Council of Scientific Society Presidents
 Council on Competitiveness
 Council on Governmental Relations
 Crop Science Society of America
 Delaware State University
 DII, LLC
 Duke University
 Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
 East Carolina University
 Ecological Society of America
 EDUCAUSE
 Emory University
 Energy Sciences Coalition
 Energystics, Ltd.
 Entomological Society of America
 EPICenter Memphis
 Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce
 Ewbank Geo Testing, LLC
 FASS
 Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
 Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
 FertiLab
 Festo Didactic, Inc.
 FlightPartner Technologies, Inc.
 Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
 Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority
 Florida International University
 Florida State University
 Foundation for Science and Disability
 Frontier Electronic Systems Corp.
 General Capacitor, LLC
 Genetics Society of America
 Geological Society of America
 George Mason University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Georgia Regents University
 Georgia Research Alliance
 Georgia State University
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 Graphene 3D Lab
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 Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
 Harvard University
 Hawaii Academy of Science
 Haze Inc
 Hepatitis B Foundation
 Hewlett-Packard Company
 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
 Humboldt State University
 IBM
 iCell Gene Therapeutics
 Idaho Academy of Science and Engineering
 IEEE-USA
 ImmunoMatrix, LLC
 IMSzema Solutions
 Indiana University
 Infineon Technologies Americas Corp.
 Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
 Innovation Associates
 Innovation New Jersey
 Institute of Food Technologists
 Intel Corporation
 International Economic Development Council
 International Society for Educational Planning
 International Society for the Systems Sciences
 International Technology and Engineering Educators Assn.
 Iontraxx LLC
 Iowa's Cultivation Corridor
 Iowa State University
 Iowa State University Research Park
 IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries
 iStart Valley
 Jasmine Universe, LLC
 Jefferson Science Associates LLC
 The Johns Hopkins University
 Kansas State University
 Kansas State University Institute for Commercialization
 Kent State University
 Kentucky Academy of Science
 Lambert Construction Company
 Lehigh University
 Linguistic Society of America
 Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Long Island University
 Louisiana State University
 Louisiana Tech University
 Lowell Observatory
 Maine State Chamber of Commerce
 Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
 Massachusetts Biotechnology Council
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
 Materials Research Society
 Mathematical Association of America
 Meritage Midstream Services
 Miami Dade College
 Miami University
 Michigan State University
 Michigan Technological University
 Micron Technology, Inc
 Microscopy Society of America
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Millennial Materials and Devices Inc.
 MindWick
 Mississippi State University
 Missouri University of Science and Technology
 MN-SBIR
 Mobileware Inc.
 modelizeIT Inc.
 Montana State University
 National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
 National Association of Colleges and Employers
 National Association of Geoscience Teachers
 National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
 National Association of Marine Laboratories
 National Center for Science Education
 National Center for Technological Literacy- Museum of Science
 National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
 National Council for Science and the Environment
 National Defense Industrial Association
 National Ground Water Association
 National Science Education Leadership Association
 National Science Teachers Association
 NeoMatrix Therapeutics
 New Jersey Business and Industry Association
 New Mexico State University
 New York University
 NextThought, LLC
 North Carolina Academy of Science
 North Carolina A&T State University
 North Carolina State University
 North Dakota State University
 Northeastern University
 Northern Illinois University
 Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
 Oakland University
 Ohio University
 The Ohio State University
 Oklahoma Academy of Science
 Oklahoma State University
 Oklahoma State University – College of Engineering
 ON Semiconductor
 ONAMI
 Orange County Business Council
 Oregon State University
 Pace University
 Parapsychological Association
 Penn State University
 Phillips 66
 Phiston Technologies, Inc.
 Polynova Cardiovascular Inc.
 Population Association of America
 Portland State University
 Poultry Science Association
 PPG Industries, Inc.
 Prairie View A&M University
 Principal Financial Group
 Princeton University
 Progen LifeSciences
 QB Sonic, Inc.
 Qualcomm
 RAIN Eugene
 Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Re-Nuble
 Research!America
 Rice University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
 SAGE
 San Diego Regional EDC
 San Diego State University
 San Francisco State University
 San Jose State University
 Saniteq LLC
 SchoolSource Technologies, LLC

Semiconductor Equipment & Materials International (SEMI)	University Economic Development Association	University of Montana
Semiconductor Industry Association	UNAVCO	University of Nebraska
Semiconductor Research Corporation	Unique Technical Services LLC	University of Nevada, Reno
Sigma Xi	United for Medical Research	University of New Hampshire
Silicon Valley Leadership Group	Universities Research Association	University of New Mexico
Small Business Technology Council	University at Albany, State University of New York	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Smith Cybernetics, LLC	University at Buffalo, State University of New York	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Society for In Vitro Biology	University City Science Center	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research	University of North Carolina System
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology	University Economic Development Association	University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW)
Society for Neuroscience	The University of Akron	University of North Dakota
Society of the Study of Evolution	The University of Alabama	University of North Texas
Society of Toxicology	The University of Alabama at Birmingham	University of Notre Dame
Softheon	The University of Alabama System	University of Oklahoma
Soil Science Society of America	University of Alaska	University of Oregon
Sonoma State University	University of Alaska Fairbanks	University of Pennsylvania
South Dakota State University	University of Arizona	University of Pittsburgh
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology	University of Arkansas	University of Rhode Island
Southeastern Universities Research Association	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	University of Rochester
Southern Illinois University System	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	University of South Carolina
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics	University of California System	University of South Dakota
SRI International	University of California, Berkeley	University of Southern California
SSTI	University of California, Davis	University of Tennessee
Stanford University	University of California, Irvine	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
State University of New York	University of California, Los Angeles	The University of Texas at Austin
STEM Education Coalition	University of California, Merced	The University of Texas System
Stillwater Chamber of Commerce	University of California, Riverside	University of Toledo
Stony Brook Building Science, LLC	University of California, San Diego	University of Vermont
Stony Brook University	University of California, San Francisco	University of Virginia
STS Global Inc.	University of California, Santa Barbara	University of Washington
Sulcrete	University of California, Santa Cruz	University of Wisconsin System
Sullstice	University of Central Florida	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation	University of Cincinnati	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
SURA	University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	University of Wyoming
SynchroPET	University of Colorado Boulder	University System of Maryland
Syracuse University	University of Colorado Denver	Unmanned Systems Research Institute
TargaGenix, Inc.	University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus	Utah State University
Task Force on American Innovation	University of Connecticut	Van Fleet & Associates
Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM	University of Delaware	Vanderbilt University
Technology Association of Georgia	University of Florida	Vascular Simulations LLC
TechVision21	University of Georgia	Vela Therapeutics LLC
Temple University	University of Hawaii	Vermeer Corporation
Texas A&M University	University of Idaho	Virginia Commonwealth University
The Texas A&M University System	University of Illinois	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Texas Instruments Incorporated	University of Illinois at Chicago	Vitatex Inc.
Texas State University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Washington State University
Texas Tech University	University of Iowa	Washington State University, Tri Cities
The Coalition for the Life Sciences	University of Kansas	Washington University in St. Louis
The Electrochemical Society	University of Louisville	Wayne State University
The Industrial Research Institute	University of Massachusetts Amherst	Weather Decision Technologies. Inc.
The InterTech Group	University of Massachusetts Boston	Weathernews Inc.
The New England Council	University of Massachusetts System	Web4Sign Corporation
The Optical Society	University of Maryland – Baltimore County	West Virginia University
The Procter & Gamble Company	University of Maryland – Eastern Shore	West Virginia State University
The Webb Group	University of Maryland University College	Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council
Theragnostic Technologies Inc.	University of Memphis	Western Michigan University
ThermoLift, Inc.	University of Michigan	Wichita State University
The Science Coalition	University of Minnesota	Wisconsin Technology Council
Tri-City Development Council – Tri-Cities, WA	University of Mississippi	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
TRITEC Real Estate Company, Inc.	University of Missouri – Columbia	Yale University
Tufts University	University of Missouri – Kansas City	Zuznow
Tulane University	University of Missouri – St. Louis	
	University of Missouri System	

This document was issued on June 23, 2015. Additional endorsers continue to be added.
 Related op-eds, resources and the most up to date list of endorsers may be found at innovationimperative.org

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