

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

**SUPPORTING AMERICAN INNOVATION**

January 25, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The policy decisions we make here in Congress broadly impact America's future, from jobs and the economy to our leadership and presence abroad. We would like to share with you a copy of "Innovation: An American Imperative," released in June 2015, which calls on us as members of Congress to support specific actions to ensure the United States remains a global leader in innovation, including:

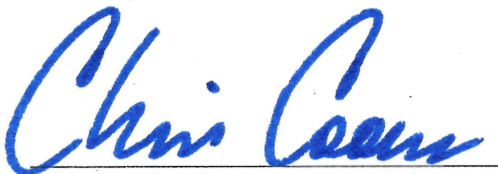
- 1) Renewing the federal commitment to scientific discovery
- 2) *Making permanent a strengthened federal R&D tax credit (completed)*
- 3) Improving student achievement in STEM fields
- 4) Reforming U.S. visa policy
- 5) Taking steps to streamline inefficient regulations governing research
- 6) Reaffirming merit-based peer review
- 7) Stimulating improvements in advanced manufacturing

These actions are endorsed by stakeholders in all 50 states, including CEOs from eight major American companies, the president of the largest U.S. manufacturing trade association, and over 325 leading higher education institutions and scientific and engineering societies.

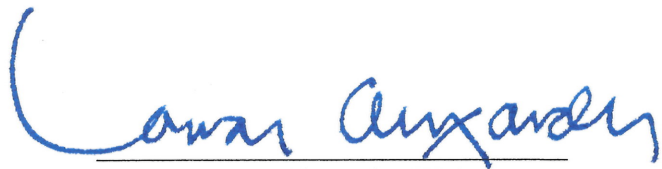
A copy of the statement is attached for your review and further information can be found at [www.innovationimperative.org](http://www.innovationimperative.org). We hope that you will find these ideas instructive as Congress considers legislation to restore and enhance investments in research to ensure the U.S. remains a global innovation leader.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,




Senator Christopher Coons (DE)



Senator Lamar Alexander (TN)



Representative Randy Hultgren (IL-14)



Representative Derek Kilmer (WA-06)