



April 7, 2010

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
House Science and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Committee
508 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ralph Hall
Ranking Member
House Science and Technology Committee
H2-394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Committee
508 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Gordon, Ranking Member Hall, Chairman Rockefeller, and Ranking Member Hutchison:

The Task Force on American Innovation – a coalition of major high-tech corporations, universities and scientific societies – strongly supports reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act this year.

When the COMPETES Act was enacted in 2007, it provided the nation with a broad blueprint for strengthening the pillars of American innovation and competitiveness: increasing the nation's commitment to basic research, strengthening STEM education, and fostering a business environment to drive innovation. These initiatives were based upon the recommendations contained in the National Academies' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," authored by a distinguished panel of educators, innovators, and scientists. Passage of COMPETES was strongly supported by leaders of both parties and received broad-based support in Congress.

Reauthorizing COMPETES will underline our nation's commitment to policies that strengthen America's talent pool and provide continued support for long-term basic science, ensuring that American innovators will continue to produce the discoveries that create new technologies, new industries, and high value jobs for Americans.

The companies and allied organizations that comprise the Task Force stand ready to work with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation

Agilent Technologies
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Chemical Society

Task Force on American Innovation
703-706-0082
www.innovationtaskforce.org

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.
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