

February 6, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader Pelosi:

The 95 undersigned businesses, scientific and engineering societies, and universities – each a fundamental part of the U.S. innovation ecosystem driving American economic growth and job creation – urge you to reach a bipartisan budget deal that raises the harmful sequestration level budget caps for *both* defense and non-defense programs. We further urge you to make investments in science and engineering research a top priority when allocating additional funding by increasing the 302(b) allocations for the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) and Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (E&W) Appropriations Subcommittees and increasing funding for Department of Defense (DOD) science and technology accounts.

Additional funding is critical for these subcommittees – along with a strong allocation for Defense – to ensure appropriators can make strategic investments in scientific research at DOD; the Department of Energy; NASA; the National Science Foundation (NSF); and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in FY 2018 and set a strong course for the rapidly approaching FY 2019 appropriations process.

Robust and sustained federal investment in scientific research is essential to strengthening our economic and national security. These investments support advanced training for students at U.S. universities and national laboratories whom businesses actively recruit for high-quality American jobs. Federally funded scientific research both at DOD and civilian agencies such as NSF and NIST, also ensures our warfighters and defense systems are well protected and equipped with the most advanced technical capabilities to fight and win the wars of the future – both real world and virtual conflicts.

America's leadership is being tested and a renewed commitment to innovation is urgently needed. Previously unrivaled, the U.S. innovation ecosystem has driven our country's economic strength and global leadership for more than 50 years, but today our international competitors are taking pages from the American playbook and investing in their domestic innovation ecosystems. According to NSF's 2018 Science and Engineering Indicators report, "U.S. global share of [science and technology] activities is declining as other nations—especially China—continue to rise."

While we appreciate the budget pressures Congress faces, federal funding for scientific research is an investment in the American economy and domestic workforce that will pay dividends for years to come – helping to ensure the industries and jobs of tomorrow are created right here at home.

We urge Congress to seize this moment to strike a bipartisan, bicameral budget agreement that raises the harmful sequestration-level spending caps on both defense and non-defense spending and to prioritize increasing the 302(b) allocations for CJS and E&W and grow the DOD science and technology accounts to enable strategic new investments in science and engineering research.

Sincerely,

Advanced Micro Devices  
Aerospace Industries Association  
Agronomy Society of America  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Sociological Association  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
ASME  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM)  
Battelle  
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  
City College of CUNY  
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Crop Science Society of America  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
Duke University  
Eastman  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America (ESA)  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Florida State University  
The Geological Society of America  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
GLOBALFOUNDRIES  
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Harvard University  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
IEEE-USA  
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology  
Indiana University  
Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce

Jefferson Science Associates  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
The National Center for Manufacturing Sciences  
Northern Illinois University  
The Ohio State University  
OSA-The Optical Society  
Princeton University  
Procter & Gamble  
PsySiP: Psychology of Science in Policy  
Qorvo  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Research!America  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences  
SAGE Publishing  
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, University of Georgia  
SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers)  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southeastern Universities Research Association  
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics  
Stony Brook University  
Temple University  
Texas Instruments Incorporated  
University at Buffalo  
The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)  
University of California System  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Delaware  
University of Illinois System  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
The University of Texas at Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University

CC: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member, Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chairwoman, Defense Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Pete Visclosky, Ranking Member, Defense Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jose Serrano, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations