

January 4, 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

As the 110th Congress convenes and attempts to complete action on the FY 2007 appropriations process, we – the Presidents of California’s leading research universities – write to urge you and your colleagues to ensure that the year-long continuing resolution for fiscal year 2007 provides support for American innovation and competitiveness. The bipartisan endorsement of funding increases at key federal research agencies has demonstrated the widespread support for creating an educated and skilled workforce in the vital areas of science, mathematics, engineering and information technology, and a strengthened and sustained federal research and development initiative that promotes public-private partnerships.

Last year the National Academy of Sciences issued a Congressionally-requested report entitled *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*. A key finding of that report said:

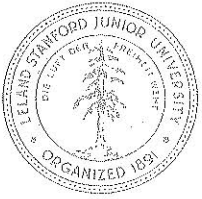
Having reviewed trends in the United States and abroad, the committee is deeply concerned that the scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength....*We fear the abruptness with which a lead in science and technology can be lost—and the difficulty of recovering a lead once lost, if indeed it can be regained at all* [emphasis added].

In November 2006, the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, a coalition of businesses and business organizations, scientific societies, and higher education associations, issued its second report entitled *Measuring the Moment: Innovation, National Security, and Economic Competitiveness*. The Task Force’s latest report continues to provide a series of benchmarks to help determine how well the nation is doing in its efforts to retain global economic leadership. This latest report includes the following findings:

- The federal investment in physical sciences and engineering has declined substantially since 1970 as a share of GDP;
- The U.S. share of published papers in science and engineering – an effective measure of new ideas and discoveries – shrank significantly from 1988 to 2003, and



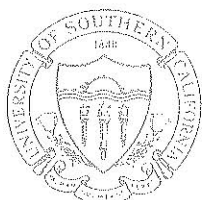
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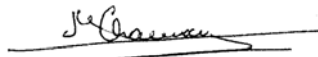
Our research and development enterprise is one of the most critical assets this nation has if it is to remain at the forefront of today's highly competitive global marketplace. The competition we face from abroad is swift, certain, and growing. We cannot afford to delay our response without jeopardizing the future health and wellbeing of our citizens. There is bipartisan support for the innovation agenda announced last year, and the appropriations process for fiscal year 2007 had been moving to provide the first year's down payment for that initiative through increases to the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science at the Department of Energy, and the National Institute for Science and Technology.

The recent announcement by the incoming chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding the year-long continuing resolution said, "We will do our best to make whatever limited adjustments are possible within the confines of the Republican budget to address the nation's most important policy concerns." We contend that investing in the future - in the workforce of tomorrow and the creation of new knowledge through research and education - should be considered one of "the nation's most important policy concerns." For that reason, we urge you to do all that you can to fully fund the innovation agenda embodied in the federal research and education enterprise in the forthcoming year-long continuing resolution.

We especially urge that the year-long continuing resolution provide the Department of Energy the flexibility to reprogram funds to permit the implementation of the initiatives that received so much bipartisan support in the 109th Congress to strengthen our scientific research and to foster innovation.

We thank you for the opportunity to convey these views.

Sincerely,



Jean Lou Chameau
President
California Institute of Technology
California

Steven B. Sample
President
University of Southern



Robert C. Dynes
President
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John L. Hennessy
President
Stanford University

cc: California Congressional Delegation
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger