May 5, 2006

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of a wide business, academic and scientific community, thank you very much for your strong leadership regarding the American Competitiveness Initiative. We have listened carefully over the past several weeks as you have spoken around the country in support of the Initiative. We encourage you to continue working with Congressional leaders to secure full funding for the ACI basic research targets and the ACI math and science education programs. We pledge our support to achieving these major national priorities.

In a world where our ability to innovate increasingly determines our competitiveness, we agree that we must invest in the discovery science, engineering and education that provides the foundation for high-growth jobs and industries. In particular, your budget requests for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the math/science education programs in the ACI put us on the right path.

We are concerned that House leaders have not yet demonstrated that ACI basic research investment is a top economic priority. The House Budget Committee, for example, proposed a resolution with $300 million less for General Science, Space and Technology than the Administration’s FY2007 request. If appropriators followed such guidance it would be very difficult to increase basic research in the physical sciences and engineering in a meaningful way. This guidance would effectively preclude the doubling of basic research over the next ten years as you have proposed.

Thank you again for supporting critically needed investment in basic research and math/science education in the American Competitiveness Initiative. We are committed to helping in any way to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

THE INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS COALITION
AeA
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Phytopathological Society
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society for Engineering Education
ASM International
ASME
BellSouth
Business Roundtable
Center for Accelerating Innovation
Center for National Software Studies
Colorado Photonics Industry Association
Computing Technology Industries Association
Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education
Council on Competitiveness
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Crop Science Society of America
Electronic Industries Alliance
Federation of American Scientists
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Universities
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Vacuum Society
Federation of Materials Societies
IBM Corporation
IEEE-USA
Innovation Philadelphia
Information Technology Industry Foundation
Intel
The International Society for Optical Engineering
Materials Research Society
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
Optical Society of America
Procter & Gamble
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International
Semiconductor Industry Association
Soil Science Society of America
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments
University of Texas System