January 18, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi

On behalf of the nation’s business, research university, and scientific communities, we strongly urge you to enact into law the increased FY 2007 funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) core labs, and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science already approved by the House and by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

These research investments are an essential element of the nation’s efforts to strengthen its economic competitiveness, national security, and quality of life in the 21st century. Over time, our investments in basic research result in innovations, create new industries and improve existing ones, produce jobs, and strengthen productivity.

This is why these investments in basic research enjoy strong bipartisan support and would likely have been enacted already had the 109th Congress been able to complete the FY 2007 appropriations bills. As you know, the House Democratic Caucus’ Democratic Innovation Agenda calls for doubling over five years funding for basic research at NSF and other research agencies, while the FY07 budget submitted by the Administration called for doubling funding at NSF, NIST, and the DOE Office of Science over ten years. Clearly it will take a number of years to double basic research investments; if we begin the effort this year, it will make the goal far more achievable. It should not be deferred.

As you can see from the list of signers below, support for these investments in the business, academic, and scientific communities is both broad and deep. As you consider how to complete the appropriations process for FY 2007 when the current continuing resolution expires on February 15, we hope that you will take this important first step toward addressing our nation’s competitiveness challenge.

3M
AeA (American Electronics Association)
Agilent Technologies
American Chemical Society
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Association of American Universities
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Center for Accelerating Innovation
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
(CompTIA)
Council on Competitiveness
Electronic Industries Alliance

IBM Corporation
IEEE-USA
Intel Corporation
Materials Research Society
Microsoft
NASULGC, A Public University Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
New York Structural Biology Center
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Optical Society of America
Optoelectronics Industry Development Association
Procter and Gamble
Science Coalition
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI)
Semiconductor Industry Association
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Texas Instruments