

June 19, 2006

The Honorable William H. Frist, MD
Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Dear Senator Frist:

The following leading science, technology, educational, business and trade associations are writing to urge you to consider S. 2802 the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act of 2006 and S. 2197 Protecting America's Competitive Edge Through Energy Act of 2006 or (PACE-Energy Act) for floor consideration as soon as possible. Both pieces of legislation respond to recommendations contained in the Council on Competitiveness' *Innovate America Report* and the National Academies' *Rising Above the Gathering Storm Report*.

In a world where many nations compete on the basis of cost and quality, innovation is the key arbiter of competitiveness. Other countries are increasing investments in basic research and better-educating their science and engineering workforce. We must respond by strengthening our capability to innovate in an increasingly challenging, knowledge-based, global economy. America's strategic role in world affairs is intertwined with the global economic marketplace. We must act now to ensure our leadership role in economic and strategic affairs for generations to come.

America has many resources to accomplish this task—not the least of which is our ability to recognize when change is required and action is necessary. We urge you to move expeditiously to bring both of these bills before the full Senate. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

American Society of Plant Biologists
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME Center for Public Awareness
ASTRA, Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America.
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of University Research Parks
Computing Research Association
DuPont Corporation
EAST Initiative
Electronic Industries Alliance
Energy Sciences Coalition
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Exploratorium
General Motors
Hewlett-Packard
IEEE-USA
Intel
Materials Research Society
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association for Marine Laboratories
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Science Teachers Association
New England Council
Optical Society of America
Sea Grant Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
Southeastern Universities Research Association
SPIE-The International Society for Optical Engineering
STEMES (STEM Education Society)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
The Business-Higher Education Forum
The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh
The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Cincinnati
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution