

February 18, 2021

Senator Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roger Wicker
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation,

On behalf of the Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC), a coalition of non-profit, academic, foundation, and corporate leaders advocating for bolstering our nation's science and technology (S&T) capacity, we write today to thank you for your leadership, and to offer our support for President Biden's nominee to lead the White House Office on Science and Technology Policy, Dr. Eric Lander.

Dr. Lander is a world-renowned scientist who has led breakthrough research that will change the course of human history. A geneticist, molecular biologist and mathematician and one of the principal leaders of the Human Genome Project, Dr. Lander's background and experience perfectly encapsulate the promise and excitement of scientific discovery. We enthusiastically support his confirmation to the position of Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). We applaud President Biden's decision to elevate the Science Advisor to the cabinet level and to give science a seat at the table where some of the country's most consequential decisions will be made.

Rebuilding our economy, confronting the coronavirus, combating climate change, and addressing other formidable challenges will require focused action, public and private sector collaboration, and a build-out of our nation's science and technology capacity. We need to invest significantly and act strategically to bolster research, development, and education.

To meet the many challenges we face and to create new opportunities, we assert the urgent need for a national plan that guides strategic, multi-agency and cross-sector partnerships and coordination to confront emerging threats, and dramatically increased federal support for S&T, including for STEM education. The 1-page summary of the **Science & Technology Action Plan** is available for review here: [ScienceTechAction.org](https://www.scienceaction.org).

S&T discoveries and advancements have driven the U.S. economy, assured our national security, and improved the lives of Americans and people around the world. But as global competitors like China increase their investment in S&T, decades of U.S. underinvestment has left us ill-equipped to meet the existential challenges of our time. By increasing focus and investment in S&T, the Biden Administration in partnership with Congress can ensure the U.S. remains the world leader in the innovation that powers our economy and allows us to advance the cause of humankind.

We thank you for your commitment to science and technology and stand ready to work with you and the Biden Administration to confirm Dr. Lander to lead the OSTP.

Sincerely,

Science and Technology Action Committee

Science and Technology Action Committee Members

(Professional affiliations are included for identification purposes only. The views expressed by the committee are not indicative of official positions of the organizations with which committee members are associated.)

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CEO, AAAS

Mary Woolley, Co-Chair

President & CEO, Research!America

Keith R. Yamamoto, Co-Chair

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UCSF

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Former President & CEO, The Kavli Foundation
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Member of Congress (2005-2018)
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Senior Vice President and Director of IBM
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The Honorable Bart Gordon

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