

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACTION COMMITTEE



April 22, 2022

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker of the House
Capitol Building
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
Capitol Building
S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy
Office of the House Minority Leader
Capitol Building
H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
Capitol Building
S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Republican Leader McCarthy, Democratic Leader Schumer, and Republican Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the Science and Technology Action Committee, we congratulate you for your hard work to pass critical bipartisan science and technology (S&T) legislation, and now we ask for your continued leadership to move the conference process along quickly towards a final bill.

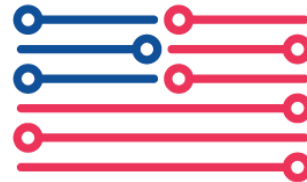
The House and Senate versions of the Bipartisan Innovation Act make essential investments in research, development, STEM education and other aspects of our S&T infrastructure, and will help to secure our country's economic and national security for decades to come.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to renew a federal focus on fortifying the engine of American innovation and it is critical for Congress to act upon on this moment. Science and technology have long driven our economy, assured national security, and improved lives nationally and globally. We have come to take such progress for granted, and have been underinvesting in S&T for decades. As a result, our global standing in research and development (R&D) has diminished and we are failing to cultivate a talented and diverse STEM workforce essential for sustained excellence.

It is a true testament to your determination and commitment to establish a bipartisan conference committee aimed at building and investing in the US S&T enterprise. As conferees work swiftly, but thoughtfully, on bridging the differences in the two bills, STAC urges you to consider the following priorities in the final package:

- A critical infusion of resources in the S&T enterprise to meet and address societal and global challenges.

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- Prioritization of STEM education to ensure a pipeline of well-trained students and researchers and a more diverse STEM workforce, as well as outstanding STEM educators by authorizing the National Science Corps program.
- An investment in critical current and emerging technology areas so the US can continue to serve as the global leader in science and innovation.
- A national plan aimed at strategic, multi-agency and cross-sector partnerships that can be achieved in part through the Quadrennial S&T review.
- Policies to cultivate our nation's innovation ecosystem.

While differences exist between the House and Senate innovation bills, there are many more elements that are similar and thus we urge a swift agreement on a final bill. We stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

William D. Novelli
Professor and Founder, Business for Impact
Georgetown University McDonough School of
Business

Sudip S. Parikh, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Publisher, *Science* Family of
Journals
American Association for the Advancement
of Science

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America

Keith R. Yamamoto, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and
Strategy, UCSF
Director, UCSF Precision Medicine
Vice Dean for Research, School of
Medicine
Professor, Cellular &
Molecular Pharmacology

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Cc:

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Ranking Member Roger Wicker (R-MS), U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK), U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance

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Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

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