

January 24th, 2024

The Hon. Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Granger, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins,

Thank you for the time and energy you have devoted to negotiating a budget compromise and for your continued work to manage the annual appropriations process. As you move toward approving final funding levels for FY24, we urge you to take this opportunity to protect the nation's economic security and the well-being of the American people through robust funding of science and technology.

As co-chairs of the Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC), a non-partisan coalition of non-profit, academic, foundation, and business leaders, we are staunch advocates for federal investment in research and development.

In a world constantly being transformed by advances in science and technology, it is deeply concerning that government funding for research and development has declined to just 0.7% of our GDP, dramatically lower than our historical peak of nearly 2%. Meanwhile, China and other competitors are aggressively increasing their investments, and are on pace to surpass the U.S. as the world's leader in science and technology. Increased funding of R&D is an economic and societal imperative if we are to keep pace with global competitors.

The American people understand the importance of government funding for science and technology to our future economy. A recent national survey commissioned by STAC, included in STAC's December 2023 [State of Science in America](#) report found that 70% of respondents believe federal funding of S&T is so important it should be protected from budget cuts. In the same survey, more than three-quarters of respondents say the U.S. is losing - or has already lost - its status as a global leader in science and technology. In fact, 60% of respondents say China, not the U.S., will be the global leader within five years.



We need to meet this moment by advancing U.S. science and technology capabilities. Doing so will ensure that technologies lead to transformational improvements in health, wellness, quality of life, and security. By funding key investments in science and technology, we can fuel innovations, strengthen domestic supply chains, and build a robust talent pipeline of STEM workers — all high priorities with tremendous bipartisan support. These investments will make our country safer and stronger, ensuring that new technological advancements are created here — not overseas.

Thank you again, Chair Granger, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins, for considering this request and for your efforts, and those of your respective staff members, on behalf of us all.

Sincerely,

Bill Novelli
Professor & Founder,
Business For Impact
Center, Georgetown's
McDonough School of
Business

Keith Yamamoto
Vice Chancellor for
Science Policy &
Strategy UCSF

Sudip Parikh
CEO, The American
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Mary Woolley
President & CEO,
Research!America