MAINTAINING AMERICA AS THE GLOBAL CENTER OF INNOVATION

The non-partisan Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC) includes individuals from non-profit, academic, foundation and corporate institutions committed to dramatically increasing U.S. investment in science and technology.

WHY STRENGTHENING U.S. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MATTERS:

Boldly committing to renewed S&T investment will pay major dividends by surmounting societal threats, spurring a new era of innovation and promoting greater prosperity. It will make America more globally competitive, strengthen our national security, create a healthier population and grow our economy. If the U.S. prioritizes and elevates science and technology, we can bring about a future that uses advanced bioscience, clean energy, quantum computing, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies to revolutionize the way we live and work.

With the U.S. engaged in fierce competition with China for world leadership in science, technology and innovation, the stakes couldn't be higher. Without significant increases in federal funding of S&T, China could win the global competitiveness race. The runner-up position would be devastating for the U.S., resulting in fewer jobs, a weaker economy, more intrusive and unethical uses of technology and great national security concerns.

Since publishing its Action Plan in November 2020, STAC has become a leading voice calling for:

- Doubling federal investments in S&T research relative to U.S. GDP
- Elevating scientific leadership to the highest levels of the government
- Increasing coordination on S&T policy across federal agencies

WHY GREATER INVESTMENT IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MATTERS:

Science and technology investments are our greatest ally in driving American competitiveness, but federal spending in these areas isn't keeping pace with our strongest competitors and is not addressing the challenges at hand. We must at least double federal investments relative to GDP over the next five years on S&T, R&D, advanced manufacturing, technology infrastructure and greater STEM educational opportunities.

WHY EMPOWERING FEDERAL SCIENCE LEADERSHIP MATTERS:

President Biden's elevation of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director to the Cabinet level represents a monumental step forward that will bring rigorous scientific thinking to the highest level of government. But we can't let this be a symbolic position. It must be appropriately funded and staffed.

WHY GREATER FEDERAL COORDINATION OF SCIENCE POLICY MATTERS:

The independence of S&T is an American strength, but coordination and collaboration between the more than 20 federal research agencies with scientific missions is critical to addressing national and global threats. We must empower the OSTP with the authority and funding to address large-scale, long-term challenges, including public health and health care, environment and climate change, food and water security, and energy production, utilization and storage.

The danger in falling short on these goals is real. It would mean limiting our ability to address urgent national challenges and making us less competitive in a global economy with nations that are methodically bolstering S&T investment, talent and capacity.

STAC is co-chaired by Keith Yamamoto, Vice Chancellor for Science Policy & Strategy at UCSF; Sudip Parikh, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Mary Woolley, President & CEO of Research!America; and Bill Novelli, Professor & Founder of the Business For Impact Center at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business. To see the full list of STAC members, please visit the Science and Technology Action Committee website.