July 8, 2011

The President
The White House

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

cc: Vice-President Joseph Biden
The Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U. S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

Mr. President and Leaders:

Among economists, policymakers, and the public, there is little dispute that our nation is following an unsustainable fiscal path. As representatives of high-tech and other industries, universities, and professional societies, we concur, and we therefore believe it is imperative that our government adopt policies to reduce the budget deficit and stabilize our national debt.

As you prepare legislation raising the debt limit, we urge you to ensure that the focus remains on allowing our nation's economy to grow and our citizens to prosper. Ultimately, the point of fiscal responsibility is to provide a better life for all Americans, especially future generations. Reducing spending and deficits is necessary for achieving long-term prosperity, but reductions in federal spending must be made wisely. They should not come at the expense of science and engineering research, which has provided our nation with extraordinary prosperity for at least six decades.

More than half of U.S. economic growth since World War II is traced to technological innovation and much of the innovation and advancement is attributed to scientific research supported by the federal government. Groundbreaking work in the medical field created vaccines and antitoxins. Similar work in other fields created lasers, the MRI, modern communications devices, GPS and the Internet. Few technologies in modern life do not have a direct or indirect connection to federally supported scientific research.

We are well aware that you face an enormous challenge. We urge you to take into consideration the short- and long-term economic benefits provided by predictable and sustained support for scientific research. Taking the

right steps will enable this generation to leave future generations a legacy not of excessive debt and limited prospects but of renewed leadership and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

The Task Force on American Innovation
Agilent Technologies
Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Statistical Association
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Business Roundtable
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies
Computing Research Association
Computing Technology Industry Association
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council on Competitiveness
Cray Inc.
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Geological Society of America
Google, Inc.
Infineon Technologies
Innovation Advocates
Intel Corporation
IEEE-USA
Luna Innovations, Inc.
Materials Research Society
Microsoft Corp.
National Association of Manufacturers

National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
National Center for Women & Information Technology
Northrop Grumman Corp.
Science Coalition
Semiconductor Industry Association
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Southeastern Universities Research Association
TechAmerica
Technology CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments Incorporated