

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

As leaders of industry and academia, we applaud your continued leadership to enact S.1260, the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA), and HR 4521, the America COMPETES Act, into law. To maintain and extend the United States' economic and innovation leadership, we must act swiftly and decisively to invest in research, grow our talent pipelines, and accelerate development of key technologies that are foundational to 21st century progress and innovation. The bills before you contain many important provisions in support of these essential goals, and we urge you to quickly send President Biden a final package for his signature.

America's economic and innovation leadership relies on tight-knit coordination between the core areas of basic science research, traditionally the domain of universities, and technology development, traditionally the province of companies. That is why we are coming together to urge Congress to act now to advance smart and effective innovation policy.

The stakes are high, and what Congress does now will have lasting impacts on our country's economy and national security. As you know, federal investment has been a key factor in driving America's technological and scientific leadership. Government-funded university research in the United States has played a critical role in the development of a wide range of breakthrough technologies—semiconductors, computer networking, supercomputing, artificial intelligence, imaging, and other key advances—fueling our economy today. In the 1960s, as much as 73 percent of university research and development funding came from the federal government. That percentage fell in later decades, and now hovers around 60 percent. At the same time, the United States

has fallen behind other nations in the amount government invests in research and development as a percentage of GDP. If our country is to lead the world in developing the breakthrough technologies of the 21st century, universities, companies, and the federal government need to work together.

Many of the provisions in the bills are critical for American economic growth and innovative capacity. These include \$52 billion in new funding for investment into vital semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing, technology supply chain resiliency, and advanced wireless technologies that will accelerate deployment of leading-edge technologies and help mitigate existing supply chain vulnerabilities. Such investments have bi-partisan and bi-cameral support and will help re-establish and maintain American technological leadership in areas essential to our economic growth and security.

Funding alone, however, will not nurture the next generation of thinkers and doers. We also applaud provisions in the bills that will strengthen the talent pipeline and broaden the base of research, including through investments in computer science and K-12 STEM education, support for diverse institutions that serve a range of students, adjustments to our immigration policy, and initiatives that make use of regional investments and innovation hubs. Many of these new authorizations require new appropriations to be successful, and we encourage Congress to provide appropriate funding for them without delay.

We appreciate that there are some differences between the two bills that Congress must address, and we are counting on your leadership in resolving these differences. To preserve both national security and innovation, industry, academia, and the government must work closely together to develop the most effective and efficient policies and practices. We have already seen what happens when other countries get ahead with key technologies: those that are first gain a strategic advantage that is very hard to overcome. We urge you to finalize and promptly enact this much-needed legislation. Our country's economy, technological leadership, and national defense depend on it.

Sincerely,

Microsoft

Princeton University

Amazon

California Institute of Technology

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Harvard University

BASF Corporation

Montana State University

Dell Technologies

Purdue University

Duke Energy

Rice University

General Motors

Stony Brook University

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

HP, Inc.

University of Pittsburgh

Intel

University of Texas at El Paso

IBM

Cc:

Members of the U.S. House and Senate Conference for S. 1260/H.R. 4521  
Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo