

October 18, 2005

Gov. Frank Murkowski
Alaska

Gov. Janet Napolitano
Arizona

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
California

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne
Idaho

Gov. Rod Blagojevich
Illinois

Gov. Mitch Daniels
Indiana

Gov. Thomas Vilsack
Iowa

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas

Gov. Ernie Fletcher
Kentucky

Gov. Robert Ehrlich
Maryland

Gov. Mitt Romney
Massachusetts

Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Michigan

Gov. Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota

Gov. Richard Codey
New Jersey

Gov. Bill Richardson
New Mexico

Gov. Mike Easley
North Carolina

Gov. Bob Taft
Ohio

Gov. Brad Henry
Oklahoma

Gov. Ted Kulongoski
Oregon

Gov. Edward Rendell
Pennsylvania

Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila
Puerto Rico

Gov. Don Carcieri
Rhode Island

Gov. Jon Huntsman
Utah

Gov. Mark Warner
Virginia

Gov. Christine Gregoire
Washington

Gov. Jim Doyle
Wisconsin

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past several decades, the federal government has upheld its bipartisan commitment to university-based research in science, engineering, and technology. Due to the emergence of the global economy and rising competition from other nations, this commitment is now more important than ever. Innovation will be the key factor in stimulating our economy and leading our nation through the 21st century.

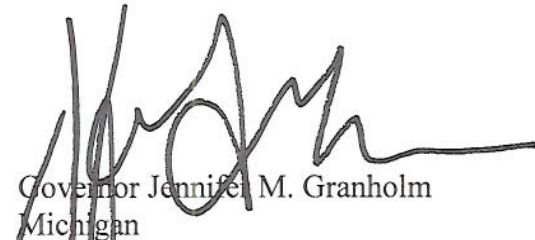
The federal investment in basic research is the foundation for discovery. Over 73 percent of U.S. industry patents cite publicly funded science as the basis for an invention. The product of this research is, and will continue to be, a driving force behind a strong, robust American economy. As governors, we experience first hand the importance of investment in science. It creates high-wage jobs, increases workforce productivity, and provides the training ground for our country's next generation of highly skilled workers.

Many products and services now common in industry are the fruits of university basic research in seemingly unrelated fields. For example, digital mammography has its origins in electrical engineering and mathematics. The Global Positioning System is an outgrowth of astronomy. Federally funded basic defense research led to the creation of the Internet. Emerging areas of study, such as nanotechnology, have the potential to revolutionize the manufacturing industry by creating new materials and transforming production processes. Nanotechnology also has the promise of improving health by monitoring blood sugar without patients ever having to give a drop of blood and providing new and less invasive ways for curing cancer. From the MRI and satellites to cellular phones and cures for disease, research in science and engineering brings innovations that not only improve our lives, but strengthen our economy and enhance our national security.

Through economic globalization, competition in research and development has risen dramatically in the last few years. Asian and European countries have committed new resources to scientific and engineering research programs at nearly unprecedented rates. While the U.S. currently remains a global leader in science and technology, we must continue to be at the forefront of discovery and development. Only by investing in the research of today can we take full advantage of the innovations of tomorrow. Despite a period of scarce resources, basic science and engineering research is a vital national investment.

We are united in our support for university-based research. Our future prosperity depends on it. It improves our quality of life at home and is essential for us to compete abroad. As you make the crucial decisions on federal spending for FY2006 and beyond, we urge you to ensure that federal funding for university-based research remains a top national priority.

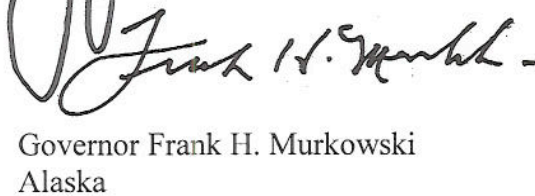
Sincerely,



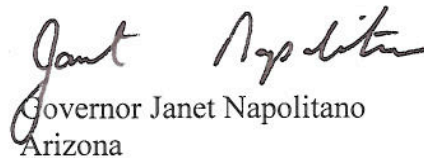
Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan



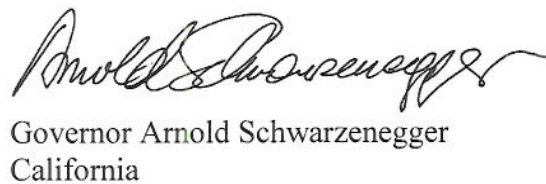
Governor Mitt Romney
Massachusetts



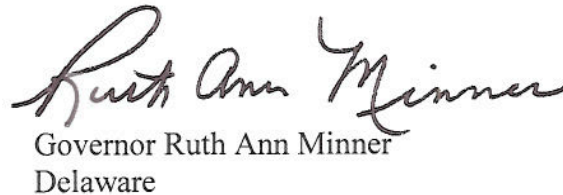
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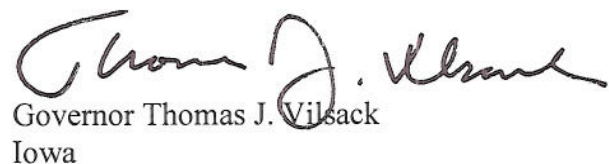
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Governor Rod Blagojevich
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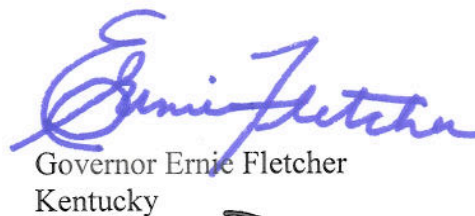
Governor Mitch Daniels
Indiana



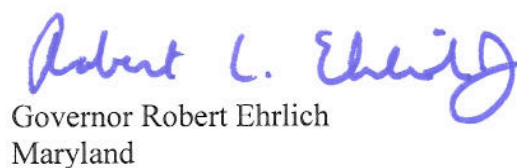
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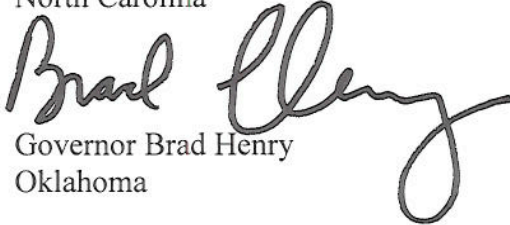
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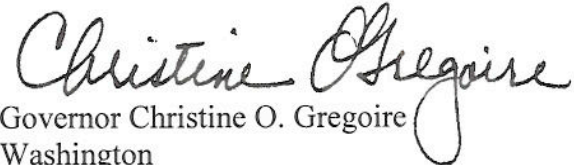
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c: Senator Frist
Senator Reid
Speaker Hastert
Representative Pelosi