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January 8, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of The House
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The importance of science, technology, and innovation to the United States has been underscored repeatedly over the past year, prompting action from the federal and state governments, academia, and private industry. Important bipartisan legislation to promote American innovation and competitiveness was proposed in 2006, and unfortunately was not acted upon before the end of the legislative session. We, the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST), write to urge you and your colleagues to ensure that the highest possible funding levels for research and development are made available in the forthcoming appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2007, and that the landmark legislation to support innovation and competitiveness is reintroduced in the coming Congressional session.

As you know, California is the nation's high-tech leader, and home to 20 percent of the technology jobs in the country. As the independent voice for California's science and technology community, CCST represents the universities, federal laboratories, and high-tech industry leaders for all of which innovation, science and technology are critical. When the National Academies stated in a major 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, that "the scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding," our constituents took notice. In fact, since our 1999 report, *California Report on the Environment for Science and Technology*, CCST has been progressively documenting concerns about California's ability to produce an educated and highly skilled workforce and maintain its innovative edge. Many provisions of legislation proposed in 2006 addressed some of these serious issues, including:

- The increase of research and development funding for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science in the Department of Energy, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- The focus on increasing the quantity and quality of science and math teachers
- Attracting and keeping the best and brightest innovators

California is ready to take action. Governor Schwarzenegger has recently proposed a \$95 million Research and Innovation Initiative to provide funding for major projects that will grow California's economic strength in key innovation sectors, including new energy resources, advanced supercomputing, clean emissions technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology. Much of this funding is designed to help facilities such as the California Institutes for Science and Innovation,

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and University of California compete more effectively for federal and private sector research funding.

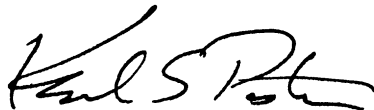
Our industry leaders recognize the importance of these issues as well. At the request of the governor, CCST has recently convened a set of four industry-led task forces to develop a California response to the mandate of *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. The message these leaders delivered to the governor is just as applicable to the nation: "We strongly believe that an opportunity exists now for bold actions... Whatever actions are taken must be of a scale large enough to have a measurable impact." Doubling the budget of the NSF and DOE Office of Science over the next five years are actions of a suitable scale to have such an impact. Providing resources for a nationwide focus on increasing well-prepared science and math teachers throughout the country is also of a suitable scale. We urge you and your colleagues to take these bold steps.

We also ask that, in the interim, everything possible be done to advance these objectives in the year-long continuing resolution on appropriations that will be enacted by February 15. In particular, we believe that one way to achieve this would be for the Congress to allow the Department of Energy during the 2007 fiscal year to reprogram some of its funds to its Office of Science and permit at least implementation of the DOE portion of the initiatives that received so much bipartisan support in the 109th Congress.

The competition the United States faces from abroad is rapidly growing. California is the science and innovation engine of the nation, but it needs the tools and resources to succeed. We urge you to seize this opportunity to carry forward into the 110th Congress the innovation agenda that has been so carefully developed both in California and in the nation, and strengthen the science and innovation that are at the core of America's economic strength.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.


Sincerely,



Karl S. Pister
Board Chair



Lawrence T. Papay
Council Chair



Cornelius W. Sullivan
Council Vice-chair



Susan Hackwood
Executive Director

Cc: California Congressional Delegation
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Enc: 2007 CCST Board and Council Membership