

*AAU Association of American Universities*  
*NASULGC National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges*

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April 24, 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon and Ralph M. Hall  
Chairman and Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science and Technology  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

As representatives of the leading public and private research universities in the nation, the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) write concerning two bills the House Science and Technology Committee will consider tomorrow, the "National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007" (H.R. 1867) and the "Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007" (H.R. 1868). AAU and NASULGC believe that both bills contain provisions essential to advancing the national innovation and competitiveness agenda, for which broad based bipartisan support has been expressed in Congress.

First, we commend the House Research and Science Education Subcommittee approving H.R. 1867. The NSF plays a critical role in advancing university-based fundamental research as well as science, engineering and math education at all levels. With this in mind, we would like to endorse the funding levels for research and education contained in H.R.1867 and urge their adoption by the full committee and by the full House.

We also want to express our support for H.R. 1868. We are particularly pleased with the provisions in this bill which would allow universities to take the lead in joint university-industry projects and to retain associated intellectual property under the Technology Innovation Program (TIP), renamed from the Advanced Technology Program (ATP). In the past, many universities have chosen not to participate in ATP projects specifically because they were not allowed to take the lead and to maintain intellectual property rights in those projects. This restriction exists under current law even when a university is the majority partner in conducting the research for an ATP project. We feel that the revised language in H.R. 1868 will significantly improve university-industry collaboration for developing new and critical technologies important to U.S. competitiveness.

We appreciate the House Science and Technology Committee's efforts to advance both of these important pieces of legislation. We look forward to working with you on these and other bills, such as H.R. 362 and H.R. 363, to improve U.S. innovation and competitiveness through research and education.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Berdahl  
President  
Association of American Universities



Peter McPherson  
President  
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges