

**Testimony for the Record  
Submitted to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations  
for “Driving Innovation Through Federal Investments” hearing  
April 29, 2014**

**Submitted by Business for Federal Research Funding**

Business for Federal Research Funding, a coalition of 48 Chambers of Commerce across the country advocating for increased research funding in the federal budget, is pleased to submit this written testimony to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for the official record. Our membership is listed at the close of this testimony. **In order to provide for the development and advancement of a strong innovation economy, and to remain global leaders in research, we encourage the Committee to increase federal accounts responsible for dispersing research funds at a steady rate above inflation each year beginning with the fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations process.**

The Chambers of Commerce that comprise Business for Federal Research Funding came together under the common view that federal investments in research funding are key drivers of the economy. Coalition members will be working together to bring increased focus to the critical impact research has on the nation’s economy.

We thank the Committee for its longtime recognition and support of basic research and its contribution to innovation in the U.S. Previous federal investments have led to the growth of the internet, the communications revolution, and the promise of genomic medicine. Innovations that flow from university-based basic research are at the root of countless companies, products, technologies, innovations, and jobs. The wide variety of industries we represent could not thrive without the investment of federal dollars in basic research, and the return on investment can be seen in every corner of our country. In order to maximize the long-term growth prospects of our economy, the government must continue to grow research accounts.

Business leaders around the world look to the United States as a model, in large part because of our federal support for innovation. When the federal government invests in research, scholars can invent the cures and tools of the future- creating new industries and spurring economic growth. Scientific advances with their origins in federal funding have been critical to the economic success of the U.S.

As the Committee works on the fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget, Business for Federal Research Funding urges you to support increases in research accounts across funding agencies. These accounts include the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Homeland Security.

The Coalition recognizes and appreciates the current fiscal environment and the challenges it presents to our nation. However, we simply cannot afford to disinvest in federal research at this critical time. Lack of adequate funding stalls new ideas and prevents talented researchers from pursuing further advancements, ultimately costing billions of dollars in missed future opportunities. Furthermore, insufficient research funding could undermine the international competitiveness of the U.S. economy.

As business leaders, we stand at the ready to build on the research investments the federal government makes. Sustained, predictable, federal support for scientific innovation gives the business community the confidence to invest our own capital in new technologies and new hiring.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We are grateful to the Committee for its support for research and innovation, and we encourage the Committee to increase the level of funding for research agencies in FY 2015.

**Business for Federal Research Funding is comprised of:**

- Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (AL)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
- San Diego Chamber of Commerce (CA)
- San Francisco Chamber of Commerce (CA)
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce (CO)
- Boulder Chamber of Commerce (CO)
- The Bridgeport Regional Business Council (CT)
- The Business Council of Fairfield County (CT)
- Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce (FL)
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce (FL)
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (FL)
- Georgia Chamber (GA)
- Metro Atlanta Chamber (GA)
- Greater Des Moines Partnership (IA)
- Indy Chamber (IN)
- Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce (KS)
- Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (KS)
- Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce (KS)
- Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce (MA)
- Cambridge Chamber of Commerce (MA)
- New England Council (MA, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME)
- Maryland Chamber of Commerce (MD)
- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber (MI)
- Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce (MN)
- St. Louis Regional Chamber (MO, IL)
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce (NC)
- Fayetteville Regional Chamber (NC)
- Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce (NC)
- Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce (NC)
- Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce (NC)

- Morrisville Chamber of Commerce (NC)
- Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce (NE)
- MID Jersey Chamber of Commerce (NJ)
- Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber (NY)
- Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (NY)
- Columbus Chamber of Commerce (OH)
- Greater Oklahoma City Chamber (OK)
- Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (PA, NJ, DE)
- Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce (PA)
- CEO Council for Growth (PA, NJ, DE)
- Greater Providence Chamber (RI)
- Austin Chamber of Commerce (TX)
- Texas Association of Business (TX)
- Lubbock Chamber of Commerce (TX)
- Greater Richmond Chamber (VA)
- Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (VA)
- Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (WA)
- Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce (WI)