



Alan I. Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Publisher, *Science*

August 2, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), thank you for your leadership and support of the America COMPETES Act – vital legislation that recognizes the importance of innovation, research and education in sustaining a strong American economy. AAAS believes that, in order to keep the United States at the forefront of technological development and economic growth, it is necessary to:

- Enhance budgets for fundamental and multidisciplinary research across agencies
- Invest in a better-prepared, better-educated domestic workforce
- Create and expand incentives for innovation

For the past two years, AAAS has seen impressive signs of collaboration between the branches of government and across party and regional lines on how to best meet this challenge. It took a concerted effort to bring the many programmatic elements outlined in the innovation bills before Congress to fruition in a consensus bill, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to enact it this session. The investments made today in research and education will pay large dividends in our Nation's future as an innovative and competitive society.

AAAS, the world's largest multi-disciplinary science society and publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science*, representing the interests of 10 million scientists worldwide, stands ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner