



December 21, 2016

The Honorable John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Smith
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Thune and Smith, Ranking Members Nelson and Johnson, and Senators Gardner and Peters:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, I write to thank you for your work in passing S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act. We applaud this bipartisan effort, taking into account stakeholder input, to improve our nation's innovation ecosystem by streamlining existing policies, supporting excellent programs and policies already in place at federal science agencies, and spurring new efforts to improve inclusion in STEM and commercialization of federally funded research.

In particular, we appreciate the bill's reaffirmation of the National Science Foundation's merit-based review process, the provisions aimed at reducing the administrative burdens facing the scientific community, and the encouragement of federal agencies to engage citizens in science. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the 115th Congress to ensure federal research and development, including through this legislation's initiatives, receives the robust funding needed to advance science and serve society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rush Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rush D. Holt, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Executive Publisher, *Science* Family of Journals