



February 6, 2009

Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader  
Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader  
United States Senate

Senators Nelson, Snowe, McCain, et al.

Senators:

I write you out of absolute frustration regarding today's news reports suggesting that the Senate leadership is considering eliminating the supplemental spending for NSF, NIST, and the DoE Office of Science that was heretofore included in the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" now under debate. For 30 years, this Nation has shortchanged investments in basic research, to the extent that invaluable national assets — including our national laboratories, energy research facilities, university research programs and standards development support facilities — have atrophied. Now, essential programs are scheduled to be dramatically scaled back or eliminated as a result of our failure.

We in industry who are dependent upon these programs for the "seed corn" of tomorrow's technologies had hoped that we had finally turned the corner on the shortsighted policies of the past with the Competes Act and the proposed increases. However, it now appears you are about to zero out any funding for basic research in the stimulus package. If that is your intent, consider what you are doing to our future. Funding low-paying jobs, massive bailouts for auto and banking industries, and attempting to refloat the housing industry may be expedient for now, but will not create the high-paying technology jobs of the future which will be critical for our children and grandchildren and America's position as global technology leader.

To be clear, I am speaking of investments in our knowledge future — students, education, and research — not money for my industry or for my company. That is our pressing need. Is it too much to ask?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig R. Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig R. Barrett  
Chairman of the Board

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