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February 27, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Pelosi:

As the presidents of California's leading research universities, we write to urge your support for a proposal endorsed by university and industry leaders to provide \$300 million in fiscal year 2008 supplemental appropriations for the Office of Science at the Department of Energy (DOE) and \$200 million for the research and education activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Last year the Congress passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the America COMPETES Act, which authorizes substantial growth for research and education activities at NSF and DOE. This action was driven by recommendations contained in the National Academies' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," which documented the connection between basic research and economic growth, a connection that other countries have also accepted and are acting upon vigorously. Despite the enactment of this legislation – and the supporting documentation provided in the "Gathering Storm" report and other similar reports -- the fiscal year 2008 appropriations process actually reduced the collective support for these programs below the FY 2007 level.

The consequence of this action means that California institutions are conducting less research and supporting fewer people (scientists, post-docs, and graduate and undergraduate students) in areas related to energy and the environment, advanced computing, engineering, and climate change. For example, reductions in staffing and the suspension of vital research are occurring at Stanford's Linear Accelerator Center. The budget is jeopardizing vital energy and earthquake research at the University of Southern California and Caltech, and leading edge work in nanotechnology at the University of California, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and other institutions is adversely impacted.

We recognize that the Congress was confronted with difficult choices to make within a constrained budget environment. However, we also believe that the future health and well being of the nation is dependent upon the creation of new knowledge and a trained workforce produced by our universities. These "outputs" are used by the private sector to deliver economic growth that benefits our citizens with 21st century employment opportunities, and new products and



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services in areas such as health care, energy independence, the environment, aviation, transportation, and agriculture.

As the Congress moves to enact necessary supplemental appropriations for a number of critically important activities, we urge you and your colleagues to see an investment in research and education with an equal sense of urgency and importance. We appreciate your past support and are grateful for the opportunity to convey our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean-Lou Chameau".

Jean-Lou Chameau
President
California Institute of Technology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven B. Sample".

Steven B. Sample
President
University of Southern California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Dynes".

Robert C. Dynes
President
University of California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Hennessy".

John L. Hennessy
President
Stanford University