



January 9, 2006

Steven B. Sample

President and
Robert C. Packard
Professor

The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten
Director
Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building
1725 17th Street, NW
Room 252
Washington, D.C. 20503

Via Facsimile: (202) 395-3888

Dear Mr. Bolten:

As the Administration prepares its budget for fiscal year 2007, I urge you to make federal investment in research and innovation a priority in order to improve America's competitiveness and economic leadership.

Both the National Summit on Competitiveness, a recent national gathering of business executives concerned about America's future competitiveness, and a joint committee of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, writing in its congressionally requested report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, concluded with the same fundamental and urgent message: If trends in U.S. research and education continue, our nation will squander its economic leadership, and the result will be a lower standard of living for the American people.

The action agenda emerging from the summit and the report are clear, and we must respond accordingly. I urge you to take this opportunity to

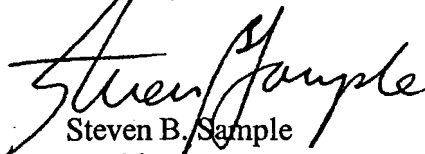
- increase the federal investment in long-term basic research by 10 percent a year over the next seven years, with focused attention to the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics;
- by 2015 double the numbers of bachelor's degrees awarded annually to U.S. students in science, math, and engineering, and increase the number of those students who become K-12 science and math teachers; and
- provide focused and sustained funding to address national technology challenges in areas that will ensure national security and continued economic leadership, including nanotechnology, high performance computing, and energy technologies.

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Since the close of World War II, America's leaders and its citizens have pursued policies that encouraged innovation by funding basic research, improving education at all levels, allowing the U.S. to attract the best and the brightest from around the world, and facilitating the transfer of new knowledge from the laboratory to the marketplace. Today the Administration, Congress, and the public must take the actions necessary to keep this nation at the forefront of an increasingly competitive global economy.

Mr. Bolten, I appreciate the enormous challenges you are facing in this very difficult budget. Thank you for considering my view as to how best to secure America's future.

Sincerely,



Steven B. Sample
President

cc: The Honorable Andrew H. Card Jr.
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff
California Congressional Delegation