

November 23, 2016

Mr. Donald Trump  
Office of President-Elect  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

On behalf of the U.S. scientific, engineering, and higher education community we are looking forward to working with you, as 45th President of the United States, and your administration.

As President you will face a wide range of domestic and international challenges, from protecting national and energy security, to ensuring U.S. economic competitiveness, curing diseases, and responding to natural disasters. These challenges share one thing in common: the need for scientific knowledge and technological expertise to address them successfully.

For this reason, we urge that you quickly appoint a science advisor with the title of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology who is a nationally respected leader with the appropriate engineering, scientific, management and policy skills necessary for this critically important role. This senior level advisor can assist you in determining effective ways to use science and technology to address major national challenges. Moreover, this individual can coordinate relevant science and technology policy and personnel decisions within the executive branch of government.

The economic benefits of advancements in science, technology and innovation have been well documented, estimated by leading economists to have accounted for approximately half of U.S. economic growth over the last fifty years. Past government investments in the U.S. scientific and technological enterprise have fueled our economy, created new jobs, and ensured our global competitiveness and national security. At the same time, these investments have enabled the development of a system of U.S. research universities and national laboratories unmatched in the world.

We know that one of your top priorities will be to focus on ensuring that the U.S. economy remains strong and continues to grow. If we are to maintain America's global leadership, and respond to the economic and security challenges currently facing the nation, we must build on our strong history of federal support for innovation, entrepreneurship and science and technology.

Toward that end we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or leaders of your transition team to discuss how the science and engineering community can assist with developing a path forward to ensure that the U.S. innovation infrastructure grows and flourishes under your administration and to suggest candidates for top science and technology posts.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response. You may contact Joanne Carney ([jcarney@aaas.org](mailto:jcarney@aaas.org)) with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to coordinate a convenient meeting time, and we will follow up with a proposed list of attendees.

Rush D. Holt  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Association for the Advancement of  
Science

Kevin B. Marvel  
Executive Officer  
American Astronomical Society

Donna J. Nelson  
President  
American Chemical Society

Chris McEntee  
Executive Director and CEO  
American Geophysical Union

Milan P. Yager  
Executive Director  
American Institute for Medical and Biological  
Engineering

Robert G.W. Brown  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Institute of Physics

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Chief Executive Officer  
American Physical Society

Martin Frank  
Executive Director  
American Physiological Society

Stefano Bertuzzi  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

Crispin Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Society of Plant Biologists

Nancy Kidd  
Executive Officer  
American Sociological Association

Robert H. Rich  
Executive Director  
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States  
(ARCUS)

Thomas G. Loughlin  
Executive Director  
ASME

Sarah Brookhart  
Executive Director  
Association for Psychological Science

Mary Sue Coleman  
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Association of American Universities

Peter McPherson  
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Association of Public and Land-grant  
Universities

Keith Yamamoto  
Chair  
Coalition for the Life Sciences

RADM Jonathan White (ret., USN)  
President and CEO  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Wendy A. Naus  
Executive Director  
Consortium of Social Science Associations

Madeleine Jacobs  
President and CEO  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents

David M. Lodge  
President  
Ecological Society of America

Howard H. Garrison  
Deputy Executive Director for Policy  
Federation of American Societies for  
Experimental Biology

Shirley M. Tilghman  
Co-founder  
Rescuing Biomedical Research

Mary Woolley  
President  
Research!America

John C. Nemeth.  
Executive Director and CEO  
SIGMA Xi, The Scientific Research Society

Thomas Grumbly  
President  
SoAR Foundation

Marty Saggese  
Executive Director  
Society for Neuroscience

Peter Walter  
President  
The American Society for Cell Biology

Elizabeth A. Rogan  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Optical Society (OSA)