

January 12, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Via Facsimile: (202) 225-8259

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As you complete the FY2007 appropriations process, we write to urge you to advance the national competitiveness agenda by providing the increased funding for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology which has been approved overwhelmingly by the full House and by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

These investments are urgently needed, and they have strong bipartisan support. The Democratic Innovation Agenda, announced in 2005 by Speaker Pelosi and the Democratic Caucus, and the Administration's FY2007 budget request both wisely called for a doubling of appropriations for research in the physical sciences at key federal agencies; and both parties in Congress voted nearly unanimously for the FY2007 increases when given the opportunity.

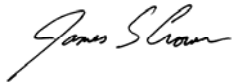
With regard to authorizing legislation that will complement the appropriations discussed above, we are pleased that House and Senate leaders on both sides of the aisle have stated their intent to pursue comprehensive competitiveness policy bills early in the new 110th Congress.

In the context of these promising developments, we ask the Congress not to miss the opportunity right now—during the still incomplete FY2007 appropriations process—to make the vital first step in addressing the nation's competitiveness challenges from all parts of the globe. Please approve the critical appropriations for physical science research that have already been enthusiastically embraced by the full House and by the Senate

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January 12, 2007
Page Two

Appropriations Committee. As this letter testifies, the business and academic communities in Illinois and our nation believe that the future prosperity and security of our country depend on your immediate favorable action in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



James S. Crown
President
Henry Crown and Company



Robert J. Zimmer
President
University of Chicago