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## **Science Helps You Thrive: Strong U.S. Scientific Leadership Raises Us All**

### **An open letter to Americans**

The administration is instructing all federal science agencies to plan for budget and staff reductions of 25% to 60% starting this fall. In 2024 the cumulative research spending at federal non-defense science agencies (DoE, NASA, NIST, NOAA, NIH, NSF, and USGS) accounted for about \$1 for every \$100 of federal spending. Science and technology fuel the engines of economic growth and the benefits we reap from federal investments in science have proven enormous. The proposed reductions in federal science agency budgets threaten our global competitiveness, future economic prosperity, safety, and health.

What has scientific research done for you lately? Federal science agency funding of research has led to:

- improved weather forecasts and warnings to keep you safe when hazardous weather strikes;
- the internet, Wi-Fi, and methods to connect different computer networks;
- improvements in cybersecurity to keep your personal information safe;
- the development of new cancer treatments and new antibiotics;
- methods to edit genes to treat diseases;
- 3-D printing used to make tools, household items, and prosthetics;
- advances in semiconductors that are used to make the electronics in your computer and phone; and
- the development of the MRI that provides images of the inside of your body to diagnose tissue damage and broken bones.

These are just a few of the advances brought about by federally funded scientific research.

The funding of basic science research is our seed corn for the future. Years may go by before this investment benefits society, but that is the whole point — investing in our future by using a small amount of funding now to support foundational research that has a large and positive impact on how we live tomorrow. Nearly a third of U.S. patents result from federally funded research, highlighting the vital role of federal science funding in driving innovation and economic growth. Additionally this investment ensures workforce development through the training of the next generation of skilled science

and technology professionals. Decreases in federal science funding mean that our nation will have fewer scientists in the future, our industries will not be able to fulfill their needs for scientific talent, and our economic growth will slow. U.S. industries will have a harder time competing internationally.

Some federal science funding supports government scientists — experts in their fields — who conduct research to improve safety, national security, and human health. The rest of federal science funding is distributed via a highly competitive grants process to universities, private corporations, and non-governmental organizations.

Our health, our safety, and our prosperity are on the line — stand up for strong federal funding of science to ensure our future.