

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 1, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:


We are writing today to highlight the importance of the provisions included in the Senate-passed United States Innovation and Competition Act that set aside 20% of research funding for Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) designated states.


As you know, the National Science Foundation (NSF) launched EPSCoR in 1979 to reach states that have historically received a low share of research and development (R&D) funds with the goal of enhancing their capacity to conduct nationally competitive research. But currently, EPSCoR represents only a tiny fraction of the NSF's annual R&D budget, and severe regional inequities in federal research investment still exist. The top five states that receive the most NSF grants account for nearly 40% of the total.


The United States Innovation and Competition Act, passed on a bipartisan basis by the Senate in June to increase U.S. competitiveness in science and technology, includes important provisions to remedy this imbalance by setting aside 20% of NSF and Department of Energy research funding for the 28 EPSCoR designated states and jurisdictions that are currently underserved by R&D funds. We strongly support this approach and believe that it is necessary to leverage every state and community in the nation to remain globally competitive. With the robust investment in R&D funding included in the United States Innovation and Competition Act, this approach will continue to support states that traditionally receive a high amount of NSF research dollars while also supporting innovation in underserved regions.


As both chambers consider legislation to improve U.S. competitiveness, create new jobs, and expand economic opportunity, we urge you to incorporate these important Senate EPSCoR provisions into the conferenced bill. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you as Congress continues to consider ways to improve U.S. science and technology.

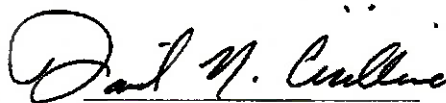
Sincerely,


  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator


  
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator

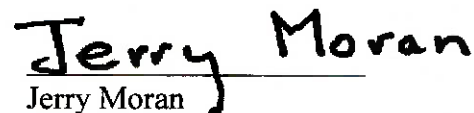
  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator


  
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator


  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

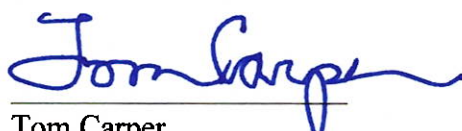
  
Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator


  
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

  
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

  
Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator

  
Tom Carper  
United States Senator

  
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

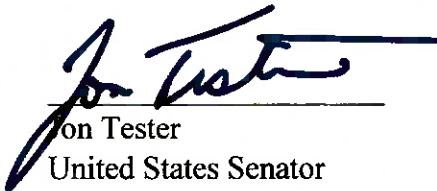
  
Lindsey Graham  
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



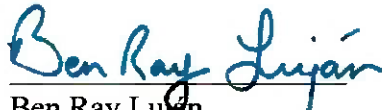
Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



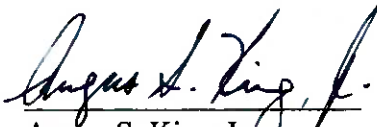
Tim Scott  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



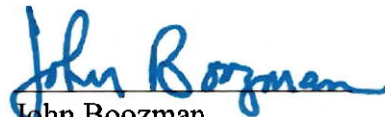
Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator



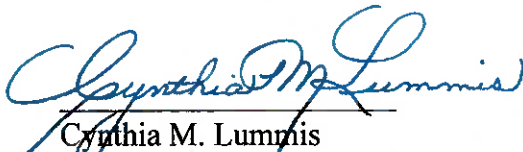
Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator




M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator





James E. Risch  
United States Senator





Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

  
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator

  
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

  
Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

  
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

  
Richard Shelby  
United States Senator


  
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

  
James Lankford  
United States Senator

  
Sharice Davids  
Member of Congress

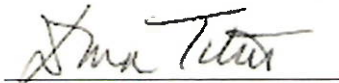
  
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

  
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

  
Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

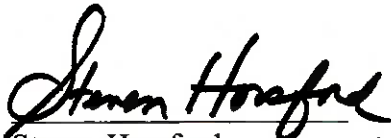
  
Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



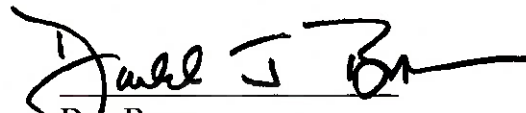
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



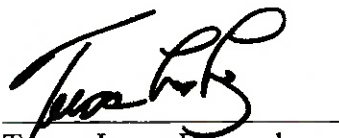
Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress




Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



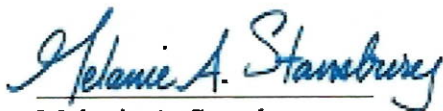
Ron Estes  
Member of Congress



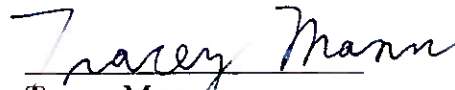
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



Melanie A. Stansbury  
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



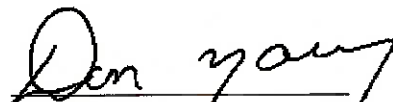
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



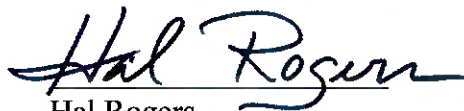
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



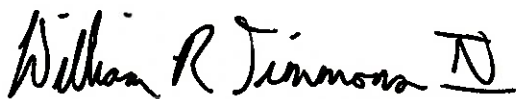
Don Young  
Member of Congress



Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers  
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress