

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Senate 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:

As you work to resolve differences between the House and Senate technology competitiveness bills (S. 1260 and H.R. 4521), we write to urge you to maintain the several provisions supporting the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) contained in the Senate-passed legislation. These provisions make important set-asides for the 25 states and 3 territories that are currently underserved by federal Research and Development (R&D) programs and that participate in EPSCoR.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) launched EPSCoR in 1979 to reach states that have historically received a low share of federal research funds with the goal of enhancing their capacity to conduct nationally competitive research. This program has been replicated by other agencies, including the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. However, despite the clear benefits and broad support for EPSCoR, severe regional inequities in federal research investment persist. The top six states and the District of Columbia alone receive nearly half of NSF funding. This perpetuates geographic disparities in research capacity, technology development, and economic opportunity.


The United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), passed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis, will help address this imbalance by setting aside for EPSCoR jurisdictions 20% of funds provided to NSF – including for research, scholarships and fellowships, and a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation – and 20% of additionally authorized research funds for the Department of Energy. These allocations will ensure that investments in R&D and technology development will increase the capacity and harness talent for innovation in all corners of the United States. At the same time, the significant increases in R&D funding authorized under USICA will bolster the entire research enterprise of the country and continue to support states that traditionally receive high levels of federal research dollars.

As you negotiate final legislation to improve U.S. competitiveness, we urge you to incorporate the Senate EPSCoR provisions into the final bill. As senators representing EPSCoR states, this is a high priority for us in this legislation, and we look forward to working with you in getting it over the finish line.

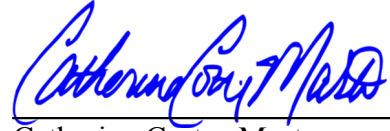
Sincerely,



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Roger Wicker  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



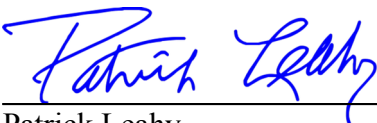
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Roger W. Marshall  
Member of Congress



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



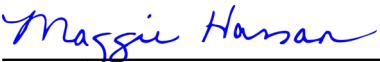
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



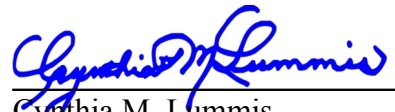
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



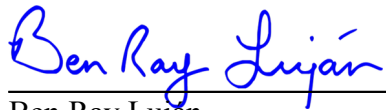
Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



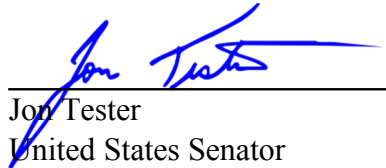
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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator



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Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Tim Scott  
United States Senator



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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



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John Barrasso  
United States Senator



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Lindsey Graham  
United States Senator



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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



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John Kennedy  
United States Senator



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Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



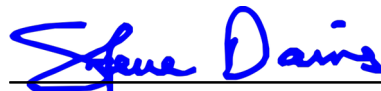
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Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senator



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M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



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Steve Daines  
United States Senator



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Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



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Richard C. Shelby  
United States Senator



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Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator