

# Tapping America's Potential

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## **Business Community Commends Senate Appropriations Committee Leaders for Funding U.S. Innovation in Supplemental Spending Bill**

### *Supplemental Funding for Science and Engineering Research Will Boost America's Economic Competitiveness*

**Washington, DC** – Tapping America's Potential (TAP), a coalition of 16 of the nation's leading business organizations, commended the members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations who today approved significant increases for science and engineering research in a supplemental appropriations bill.

"We are grateful to Senators Byrd, Cochran, Dorgan, Domenici, Mikulski, Shelby, Durbin and Alexander for their leadership on U.S. competitiveness," said John Castellani, president of Business Roundtable, TAP's founding member. "Investing in U.S. innovation capacity will strengthen America's economy, boost productivity and create new opportunities for American workers."

The Fiscal Year 2008 consolidated appropriations bill reported out of committee today includes \$200 million for science and engineering research and math and science education at the National Science Foundation, and \$100 million for science and engineering research at the Office of Science in the Department of Energy.

"This funding will help maintain U.S. leadership in innovation, which creates high-wage jobs and rising incomes for Americans," said Christopher Hansen, President and CEO of AeA, a TAP member. "It is an important step forward in making America more competitive in the world economy."

In April, TAP and several other business, higher education and scientific organizations called upon President Bush and the Congress to include funding for critical U.S. innovation priorities, including science and engineering research and math and science education, in a supplemental appropriations bill. TAP will continue to advocate for policies that improve U.S. science and technology capabilities and enhance U.S. competitiveness.

"Maintaining U.S. technological and economic leadership is one of the most important challenges facing our nation, and the U.S. business community remains committed to playing its part to keep America in the lead," concluded Castellani.

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*TAP is composed of 16 prominent business organizations that represent the largest and most innovative companies in America. They have set the goal of increasing the annual number of U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates with bachelor's degrees to 400,000 by 2015.*

**TAP Goal: Double the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates by 2015**