

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 21, 2006

## PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE U.S. DEFENSE RESEARCH INNOVATIVE AND COMPETITIVE EDGE

Dear Colleague:

Americans' concerns that U.S. scientific and technological leadership is in jeopardy is growing significantly. Notably, in its report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the National Academies of Science has expressed deep concern "that the scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength." Among the measures that the report calls for is a 10-percent increase in basic defense research in FY07.

Much of our nation's economic and military superiority has been built on investments in basic research at the Department of Defense (DOD) and the unique human talent base that such investments have generated. Radar, digital computers, cryptology, wireless mobile communications, the Internet, satellite navigation, global positioning systems and lasers and fiber optics in communications and in medicine all came entirely or largely out of past DOD research investments. These technological advances have been of immeasurable benefit to the nation, helping to grow our economy and to ensure that our men and women in uniform are the best equipped and most capable in the world.

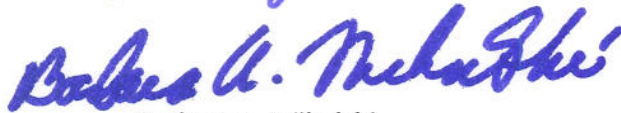
In addition to funding research opportunities that result in cutting-edge technologies, 6.1 basic research accounts provide many of the opportunities to train the next generation of science and engineering leaders. Through 6.1 accounts the newly authorized Science Mathematics and Research for Transformation/ National Defense Education Program and other educational programs, such as the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships, help DOD to attract the best and brightest young Americans into studying the most critical areas of national security.

The President's FY07 Budget Request cuts defense basic research – from \$1.47 billion in FY06 to \$1.42 billion. We hope that you will join us in working to strengthen DOD's basic research account. Please sign onto the attached letters to the Senate Appropriations and Senate Armed Services Committee urging them to provide this vital increase to the DOD basic research accounts. If you would like to sign onto the letter, or have any question, please contact Jonathan Epstein, 224-5521, [jonathan\\_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov](mailto:jonathan_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov) or George Bernier, 224-6324, [george\\_bernier@santorum.senate.gov](mailto:george_bernier@santorum.senate.gov).


Sincerely,



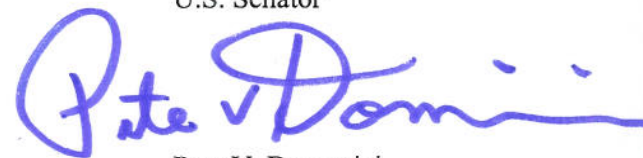
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