

February 1, 2022

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

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

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

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

Dear Madam Speaker, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy:

We write to applaud the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate for agreeing to bring the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA) to conference and we strongly encourage leaders in both parties to prioritize passage of comprehensive, bipartisan competitiveness legislation as soon as possible.

Passing such legislation presents a critical opportunity for the type of whole-of-nation focused investment effort that our country needs to ensure success in furthering our technological and industrial global advantages while also building diverse and resilient supply chains. Of central importance, the legislation would act as a vehicle for funding several critical efforts, including the CHIPS for America Act, USA Telecommunications Act, the Strategic Competition Act, the Meeting the China Challenge Act, and some combination of the Senate's Endless Frontier Act, the House's National Science Foundation for the Future Act and the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, all of which will create a strong foundation for the United States in its future competition with China.

**1. Emergency Appropriations for the CHIPS for America Act:** *Revitalizes U.S. capabilities in microelectronics.* This critical funding aims to encourage the development of domestic semiconductor manufacturing capabilities and ensure the U.S. stays on the cutting-edge of microelectronics.

**2. Endless Frontier Act:** *Supports and fuels U.S. dominance in critical and emerging technologies.* By investing in and standing up the Directorate for Technology within the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. can dedicate crucial resources and attention to advancements in critical technologies and develop a strategy for the federal government to improve competitiveness and support its overall national security strategy. We encourage the Senate to work with the House to resolve the differences between the Endless Frontier Act and the two-House research bills passed in June 2021 – the **National Science Foundation for the Future Act** and the **Department of Energy Science for the Future Act** – to pass a comprehensive research package.

**3. Emergency Appropriations for the USA Telecommunications Act:** *Requires funding to promote the rollout of Open RAN and 5G technologies to unlock future U.S. economic growth.* Passing bipartisan and comprehensive competitiveness legislation will also implement the Utilizing Strategic Allied USA Telecommunications Act aimed at accelerating development of an open-architecture model (ORAN), allowing for alternative vendors to enter the market for specific network components rather than having to compete with Huawei and other Chinese competitors end-to-end.

As explained in a letter several of us sent to the President in April 2021, “traditional national security capabilities will remain critical for our government as we seek to compete with China, but we also acknowledge that the real center of gravity in our competition will be technology.” By passing and funding bipartisan and comprehensive competitiveness legislation, the United States government will maintain leadership through investments in research and development and by strengthening regional economic development, manufacturing, and supply chains.

In recent months we have seen experts in the national security space, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, call China's test of its hypersonics weapons system "very close to a Sputnik moment." We must embark on a new path of development and innovation to drive our nation's needs and secure our nation's position on the world stage for future generations. This is the time to prioritize comprehensive, bipartisan competitiveness legislation, which will ensure that federal investment matches our national security interests and allows the United States to maintain strengths and comparative advantages against rising adversaries.

Sincerely,

John Brennan  
*Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency*

Robert Cardillo  
*Former Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency*

James Clapper  
*Former Director of National Intelligence*

Michèle Flournoy  
*Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy*

Bonnie Glick  
*Director, Center for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue  
Former Deputy Administrator of USAID*

Stephen Hadley  
*Former National Security Advisor*

Jane Harman  
*Former Ranking Member, House Intelligence Committee*

Admiral (Ret.) Harry Harris  
*24<sup>th</sup> Commander, U.S. Pacific Command  
Former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea*

General Michael Hayden  
*Former Director, National Security Agency  
Former Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence  
Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency*

Keith Krach  
*Chairman, Center for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue  
Former Under Secretary of State  
Former Chairman and CEO of DocuSign*

Michael Morell  
*Former Acting Director and Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency*

Leon E. Panetta  
*Former Secretary of Defense  
Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency*

Matthew Pottinger  
*Former Deputy National Security Advisor*

Eric Schmidt  
*Commissioner, National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence  
Former Chief Executive Officer, Google*

Frances Townsend  
*Former Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism and Homeland Security*

Dr. Michael Vickers  
*Former Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence*

Admiral James "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr.  
*Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

Robert O. Work  
*Commissioner, National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence  
Former Deputy Secretary of Defense*