

January 15, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Reid, Republican Leaders McConnell and Boehner:

The thousands of companies represented by our organizations, and the U.S. workers they employ, are key drivers of the innovation that enables America to compete in today's global marketplace. As such, we respectfully request Congress take action in the upcoming economic recovery package to invest in America's intellectual infrastructure to support and create the high-quality, high-paying jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Specifically, we ask that you support efforts to spur U.S.-based research and development (R&D) during the economic downturn by allowing small businesses to elect a one-time accelerated use, at a discount, of a portion of their accumulated net operating losses (NOLs) in exchange for giving up the future tax benefits associated with those losses. This proposal, if enacted, will help America's cutting-edge companies weather a difficult storm at a time when the U.S. capital markets are largely frozen to many of our nation's most innovative businesses. Further, this proposal will help to ensure that U.S.-based R&D by smaller firms does not drastically decline or disappear as America's capital markets recover from the current financial crisis. Failure by Congress to move quickly to enact this temporary proposal could result in a sharp decline in R&D on cutting-edge technologies (many of which are in fields where the U.S. is currently the global leader) and additional job losses.

Investing in America's intellectual infrastructure is key to economic growth and instrumental in spurring entrepreneurial innovation and job creation. Innovative, research-intensive industries enhance America's living standards while creating high-quality, high-paying jobs. American innovation is increasingly challenged by more rigorous global competition and the future of the American economy depends on critical investments today to lay the groundwork for the breakthroughs of tomorrow. Without investment in these fields, the U.S. will find it more difficult to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

We respectfully urge you to invest in America's intellectual infrastructure by including a proposal to accelerate the utilization of NOLs in the upcoming economic recovery and reinvestment legislation. We thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you to get our economy moving again in a way that protects and creates the high-paying jobs associated with America's innovation economy.

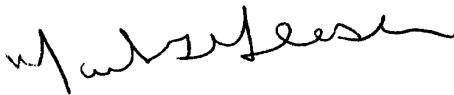
Sincerely,



**James C. Greenwood**  
President and CEO  
Biotechnology Industry Organization



**Stephen J. Ubl**  
President and CEO  
Advanced Medical Technology  
Association



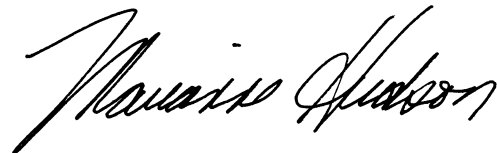
**Mark G. Heesen**  
President  
National Venture Capital Association



**Mark B. Leahey**  
President and CEO  
Medical Device Manufacturers  
Association



**Jonathan Zuck**  
President  
Association for Competitive Technology



**Marianne Hudson**  
Executive Director  
Angel Capital Association



**Patricia Glaza**  
Executive Director and CEO  
Clean Technology and Sustainable Industries Organization



**Sean Murdock**  
Executive Director  
NanoBusiness Alliance



**Zack Lynch**  
Executive Director  
Neurotechnology Industry Organization



**Bretton Alexander**  
President  
Personal Spaceflight Federation



**F. Mark Modzelewski**  
Founder and President  
Water Innovations Alliance