February 3, 2015

The Honorable Pat Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Toomey, Menendez, Roberts, and Carper:

The undersigned organizations, as members of the Coalition of Small Business Innovators (CSBI), write in strong support of your Start-up Jobs and Innovation Act, which would incentivize investment in emerging, research-centric businesses and support the search for cutting-edge technologies that are key to our nation's economic health and prosperity.

If the United States is to remain competitive on the global stage, Congress must support the small businesses driving America's 21st century innovation economy. These growth-stage innovators are advancing cutting-edge science, creating breakthrough products, and supporting high-quality jobs. Small business innovators face an uphill climb to raise the capital to fund their groundbreaking R&D – a disturbing trend for those of us who believe in the importance of innovation research.

The Start-up Jobs and Innovation Act would address the unique obstacles faced by research-intensive small businesses. Specifically, the legislation would, among other things, reform the rules regarding how investors can enter into partnerships with small, early-stage R&D companies. This change will make it easier for pre-revenue companies engaged in innovative research to attract the investment they need to develop new technologies and bring their products to market – spurring economic growth and job creation in the process.

A recent study conducted by Ernst & Young analyzed the economic impact of enacting the R&D Partnership Structures created by your legislation. Their study found that this proposal would increase investment in small, research-intensive companies by an estimated $10.3 billion per year and would result in 156,000 additional jobs – an extremely positive impact on our economy and job market. Similarly, allowing longstanding investors in small business innovators to benefit from a reduced capital gains rate will also encourage vital investments and support widespread job creation.

The Start-up Jobs and Innovation Act is critical to the continued vitality of next generation innovators and is a much-needed step to ensure that America maintains its place as a global leader.

CSBI supports the Start-up Jobs and Innovation Act and urges other Members of Congress to lend their support to this important measure. Thank you again for introducing this vital piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

AdvaMed

Algae Biomass Organization

American Small Manufacturers Coalition

Association of Clinical Research Organizations

BioPharma Research Council

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Center for Innovative Technology

Commercial Spaceflight Federation

CONNECT

Energy Storage Association

Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Energy Association

Medical Device Manufacturers Association

NanoBusiness Commercialization Association

National Association of State Energy Officials

National Council for Advanced Manufacturing

National Venture Capital Association

Neurotechnology Industry Organization

Research!America

Technology Councils of North America

Water Innovations Alliance Foundation

The **Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)** is a trade association that leads the effort to advance medical technology in order to achieve healthier lives and healthier economies around the world and acts as the common voice for companies producing medical devices, diagnostic products, and health information systems. AdvaMed advocates on a global basis for the highest ethical standards, timely patient access to safe and effective products, and economic policies that reward value creation.

The **Algae Biomass Organization (ABO)** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the development of viable commercial markets for renewable and sustainable commodities derived from algae. Its membership is comprised of people, companies, and organizations across the value chain.

The **American Small Manufacturers Coalition (ASMC)** is a trade association of manufacturing extension agents who work to improve the innovation and productivity of America's manufacturing community. ASMC advocates for legislative and programmatic resources that allow small manufacturers to better compete in the global marketplace. ASMC and its members do this by increasing awareness of the importance of American small manufacturers, the challenges that they face, and the federal legislation and programs that affect them.

The **Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO)** represents the world's leading clinical research organizations (CROs). ACRO members provide specialized services that are integral to the development of drugs, biologics, and medical devices. ACRO advances clinical outsourcing to improve the quality, efficiency, and safety of biomedical research.

The **BioPharma Research Council (BRC)** is an association for scientists across industry, academic, nonprofit, government, and supplier labs and their teams. Many educational webinars, conferences, symposia, and roundtables are offered. Emphasis is on building the cohort of researchers learning to communicate with IT professionals as they generate, acquire, analyze, share, and secure sensitive data.

The **Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)** is the world's largest biotechnology trade association. BIO provides advocacy, business development, and communications services for more than 1,100 members worldwide. BIO's mission is to be the champion of biotechnology and the advocate for its member organizations – both large and small.

The **Center for Innovative Technology (CIT)** creates technology-based economic development strategies to accelerate innovation, imagination, and the next generation of technology and technology companies. Created in 1985, CIT, a non-profit corporation, plugs gaps at the earliest stages of the Innovation Continuum – commercialization and seed funding – as it helps entrepreneurs launch and grow high-growth technology companies and create high-paying jobs for the future. To facilitate national innovation leadership and accelerate the rate of technology adoption, CIT creates partnerships between innovative technology start-up companies and advanced technology consumers. Lastly, CIT builds the infrastructure for new innovation economies with expert broadband strategies.

The **Commercial Spaceflight Federation (CSF)** is the industry association of leading businesses and organizations working to make commercial human spaceflight a reality. The mission of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation is to promote the development of commercial human spaceflight, pursue ever higher levels of safety, and share best practices and expertise throughout the industry.

CONNECT is a program that catalyzes the creation of innovative technology and life sciences products by linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of more than 3,000 companies. CONNECT focuses its efforts on accelerating the commercialization of new technology and life sciences products.

The **Energy Storage Association (ESA)** is the world's premier energy storage trade organization. ESA members include utilities, technology developers and manufacturers, national laboratories, system designers, and academia using the ESA as the leading forum to promote a better understanding of the benefits of storage in the electricity grid. Long considered the leading technical resource on storage related issues, ESA members actively engage in numerous activities to promote the development and commercialization of competitive and reliable energy storage systems.

The **Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA)** is the trade association for the fuel cell and hydrogen energy industry, and is dedicated to the commercialization of fuel cells and hydrogen energy technologies. Fuel cells and hydrogen energy technologies deliver clean, reliable power to leading edge corporate, academic, and public sector users, and FCHEA members are helping to transform the energy future. FCHEA represents the full global supply chain, including universities, government laboratories and agencies, trade associations, fuel cell materials, components and systems manufacturers, hydrogen producers and fuel distributors, utilities and other end users.

The **Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)** is a national trade association providing educational and advocacy assistance to innovative and entrepreneurial medical technology companies. Since 1992, MDMA has been the voice for smaller companies, playing a proactive role in helping to shape policies that impact the medical device innovator. This is accomplished by maintaining relationships with key Members of Congress, senior staff at FDA and CMS, and through the grassroots support of MDMA members.

The **NanoBusiness Commercialization Association (NanoBCA)** is a trade organization dedicated to promoting the commercialization of nanotechnology and helping companies bring affordable, life-improving nanotech products to the market.

The **National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM)** is an industry-led, policy research organization, working collaboratively with industry, education, government, and trade/professional associations since 1989 to accelerate the development of advanced technologies and related workforce skills.

The **National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)** is the only national non-profit association for the governor-designated energy officials from each state and territory. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO facilitates peer learning among state energy officials, serves as a resource for and about state energy offices, and advocates the interests of the state energy offices to Congress and federal agencies.

The **National Venture Capital Association (NVCA)** is the voice of the U.S. venture capital community. NVCA empowers its members and the entrepreneurs they fund by advocating for policies that encourage innovation and reward long-term investment. As the venture community's preeminent trade association, NVCA serves as the definitive resource for venture capital data and unites nearly 400 members through a full range of professional services.

The **Neurotechnology Industry Organization (NIO)** is the first and only trade group that lobbies on behalf of neuroscience-focused companies, brain research institutes, and patient advocacy groups across the spectrum of neurological disease, psychiatric illnesses, and nervous system injuries.

Research!America is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance committed to making **research to improve health** a higher national priority. Founded in 1989, Research!America is a membership-supported alliance of stakeholders in research for health representing academia, industry, patient advocacy organizations, scientific societies, academic health centers, independent research institutes, and foundations. Research!America advocates for federal funding for global health research and a legislative and regulatory climate that stimulates growth in industry research and development.

The **Technology Councils of North America (TECNA)** represents almost 50 IT and technology trade organizations that, in turn, represent more than 16,000 technology-related companies in North America. TECNA serves its members and the industry through its strong peer-to-peer network and its regional initiatives to raise the visibility and viability of the technology industry.

The **Water Innovations Alliance Foundation (WIAF)** is the voice of the world's water innovators, technologists, educators, entrepreneurs, and researchers. The Foundation's role is to advocate policies that promote the aggressive development of water technologies and innovations across all sectors and users of water by creating new market opportunities, increasing funding, strengthening research and development programs, removing market barriers, and improving education, communication, and outreach efforts.