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The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4003

Dear Dear Senator Graham:

As a scientist in South Carolina, I am writing to encourage the Senate to follow the House of Representatives in ensuring critical investments in scientific infrastructure and job creation in its version of the economic stimulus bill.

After years of neglect, the economic stimulus package currently being drafted represents a critical opportunity for the Federal government to begin making up for lost time by helping to renovate antiquated national laboratory and university infrastructure and by providing scientists with up-to-date instruments and laboratories in which to help spur American innovation for years to come. The proposed funding by the House in its bill, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", would go a long way in accomplishing this goal. I strongly urge the Senate to follow suit in including similar levels of funding for science at the Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

At a time when our Nation is facing increased global competition in all manner of innovation and scientific advancements, deferring science investments is simply not prudent. The science investments being proposed in the House bill would yield more than 100,000 direct and indirect jobs while simultaneously enhancing our nation's ability to convert new scientific discoveries into the industries of tomorrow. The investment proposals in the House's economic stimulus bill provide the right balance of immediate job creation and fiscal prudence while laying the foundation for our nation's future competitiveness. Lack of action now will imperil U.S. science in a time of fierce global competition for scientific and economic leadership.

Best regards,

Dowman P. Varn, Ph.D.