



## National Association of Marine Laboratories

May 24, 2022

Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and  
Minority Leader McCarthy:

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) joins with many other organizations in urging House and Senate conferees to work judiciously and in a bipartisan fashion to bridge the gaps between the respective competitiveness bills, the United States Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260) and the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (H.R. 4521). ***As conferees work on a final measure, and as recommended by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), we urge you to appropriate an additional \$10 billion in supplemental funding for the vast array of new science and technology programs authorized in the legislation*** to ensure the legislation does not just authorize programs, but rather provides the critical funding needed to compete. This funding is a critical down payment on promised investments, allowing agencies to jumpstart new efforts to promote U.S. competitiveness.

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) was established in 1989 to support the vital role of marine and Great Lakes Laboratories in the nation's ocean and coastal enterprise. This network of approximately 100 place-based marine and Great Lakes laboratories is a unique and valuable national asset. The geographic reach of this network includes estuaries, the coastal zone, the Great Lakes and inland watersheds, the global ocean, including polar regions, and the sea floor. NAML labs connect scientists, students, public and civic leaders with leading edge science, environmental and coastal intelligence, and professional training that contributes to the understanding, management, and stewardship of our ocean, coastal zones and Great Lakes. ***NAML urges the Conferees to retain language found in the House's***

***America COMPETES Act of 2022 that explicitly recognizes and supports the role field stations and marine laboratories play in the research, research infrastructure, STEM education, and diversity/inclusion/equity programs authorized in this legislation.***

Multiple reports over the last several years have shown that while the U.S. is still a global leader in science and technology, our competitors are catching up. This increasingly competitive global landscape demands greater U.S. investment in science and technology and policy that fosters an environment for innovation and appropriate global collaborations. Both the House and Senate bills already contain \$52 billion in supplemental funding for domestic semiconductor industry investments to address the immediate need to restore U.S. leadership in this vital sector, which we strongly support. Unfortunately, there is no other funding provided for the other new programs authorized at National Science Foundation, Department of Energy Office of Science, or the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

To fulfill the vision of the COMPETES Act, NAML believes Congress should provide \$10 billion in supplemental appropriations funding to the final USICA/COMPETES Conference Agreement. These investments are critical for U.S. economic and national security. Without funding to implement the authorization bill, the U.S. will not come close to matching the efforts of competitor nations, like China, in these important technology areas. A strong authorization bill is no substitute for providing the funding to advance critical areas of research and STEM education.

Finally, we urge the Conferees to ***address the concerns previously raised by the university community on provisions in these bills related to research security.*** We believe some of these provisions would have adverse impacts on the ability of our institutions to work and compete with international partners to address issues of global importance. We hope that improvements can be made to these provisions in the conference process. We take seriously threats to research security and the concerns raised by federal policymakers regarding undue foreign influence and illegal technology transfer, and we have a strong interest in safeguarding the integrity of federally funded research and the intellectual property resulting from it. We have strongly supported efforts to strengthen research security in recently enacted legislation and the work of the White House Office of Science and Technology JCORE Research Security Subcommittee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these views and we look forward to the historic investment in science and technology this legislation may soon provide.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Carlon  
President, National Association of Marine Laboratories