

November 12, 2009

To the Honorable Members of the
Washington Congressional Delegation
Sen. Patty Murray, Sen. Maria Cantwell,
Rep. Jay Inslee, Rep. Rick Larsen, Rep. Brian Baird, Rep. Adam Smith
Rep. Richard (Doc) Hastings, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers,
Rep. Norm Dicks, Rep. Jim McDermott, Rep. Dave Reichert

Dear Senator or Representative:

The Association of Washington Business represents companies of all size and industry in Washington state. We believe the U.S. R&D tax credit is important to our nation's economic growth and our state's economic well-being during these tough economic times.

Research and development keeps our members on the cutting edge of global competitiveness. In Washington state, employers provide high-skilled, high-wage jobs in fields ranging from aerospace to biotechnology that depend on the R&D tax credit. If the credit expires on December 31, it will place Washington state's innovation economy at risk.

As President Obama noted earlier this year:

"This is a tax credit that returns \$2 to the economy for every dollar we spend. Yet over the years, we've allowed this credit to lapse or we've extended it year to year—even just a few months at a time. Under my budget, this tax credit will no longer fall prey to the whims of politics and partisanship. It will be far more effective when businesses like yours can count on it, when you've got some stability and reliability."

Given our nation's current economic challenges, now is not the time to put the brakes on innovation; it is time to step on the gas. The R&D credit fuels innovation and pays the wages of skilled workers in all 50 states. It is one of the best ways to stimulate future economic growth.

As you work to boost the U.S. economy, please quickly strengthen and make permanent the R&D tax credit. Thank you for your commitment to Washington state and the millions of people whose jobs depend on the continuation of this credit.

Sincerely,



Don C. Brunell