

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

July 26, 2010

The Honorable Mark Pryor    The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate        United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510       Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Pryor and Warner:

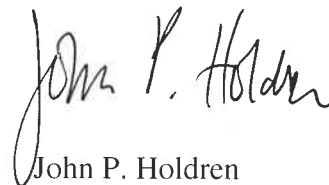
Congratulations on incorporating the goals of your bill, S. 3530, the "Reward Innovation in America Act", into S. 3605, the "America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010", as approved last week by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The Obama Administration recognizes the promise of prize competitions to spur innovation. In September 2009, the President announced his *Strategy for American Innovation*. He called on agencies to increase their ability to promote and harness innovation by using tools such as prizes and challenges to solve tough problems. In March 2010, the White House Office of Management and Budget issued a memorandum to all agency heads affirming the Administration's commitment and providing a policy and legal framework to guide agencies in using prizes to stimulate innovation to advance their core missions. In April 2010, the White House and the Case Foundation convened some of the world's top experts in prize competitions to share private-sector success stories with nearly 200 policymakers from more than 35 agencies across the Executive Branch.

Section 106 of the Committee bill would empower agencies across the Executive Branch to stimulate innovation by bringing the best ideas and top talent to bear on our nation's most pressing problems. We look forward to working with you on the details of this proposal and to ensuring that prize authority remains in the final bill.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for your continued commitment to enabling and promoting innovation.

Sincerely,



John P. Holdren  
Director