

September 10, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable John A. Boehner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

The undersigned companies and organizations, representing a broad range of U.S. industry, universities and research entities, and other stakeholders that contribute to America's economic and scientific leadership, request that Congress act urgently to approve legislation to secure the helium supply and send legislation to the President before October 1.

Helium is an essential component of a large number of manufacturing processes and a key material for the scientific research community. A significant number of jobs, economic output, and exports from the United States depend on a continuous supply of helium. Helium is also critical to products and systems that support our national defense and homeland security, and it is needed to operate the thousands of MRI devices that play a key role in our health care system.

Congress must act immediately to avert a shortage of this essential commodity. Under existing law, after October 7, the Federal Helium Reserve – a federal facility that provides approximately 50 percent of domestic supplies of helium – will no longer be authorized to sell helium to private entities that help drive our economy. The House has overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill to continue the supply of helium (H.R. 527), and the Senate is considering bipartisan legislation (S. 783) that would authorize continued sales from the Reserve. It is imperative that Congress act in advance of this deadline.

We urge Congress to act immediately and pass legislation to prevent a needless disruption to the U.S. economy that would put millions of jobs at risk.

Academy of Radiology Research
Access to Medical Imaging Coalition
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
Alliance for Aging Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Chemistry Council
American College of Radiology

American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society (APS)
Applied Materials Inc.
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Public Health Laboratories
AVS: Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
City College of New York
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Columbia University
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Corning Incorporated
Cree, Inc.
The Dow Chemical Company
Eaton Corporation
Energy Sciences Coalition
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Fairchild Semiconductor
Florida State University
Freescale Semiconductor
General Electric Co.
Geological Society of America
Goodman Manufacturing
GLOBALFOUNDRIES Inc.
Harvard University
Hitachi Medical Systems
Honeywell
Hydrocephalus Association
Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC)
IBM Corporation
Indiana University
Ingersoll Rand
Intel Corporation
Iowa State University
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Kidney Cancer Association
Kodak
Lennox International, Inc.
Lung Cancer Alliance
Luvata Grenada LLC

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA)
Michigan State University
Micron Technology Incorporated
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National High Magnetic Field Laboratory's Scientific User Committee
New Mexico State University
New York Structural Biology Center
NORDYNE
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Nuclear Energy Institute
ON Semiconductor
Optical Society
Oregon Health & Science University
Philips
Pennsylvania State University
Portland State University
Procter & Gamble
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Samsung Electronics, Inc.
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
Siemens
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Spansion Inc.
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
Task Force on American Innovation
TechAmerica
Tech CEO Council
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Texas A&M University
Texas Instruments Incorporated
Tulane University
United Technologies Corporation
Universal Lighting Technologies
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California System
University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Virginia
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Westinghouse Electric Company
Yale University