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To: nnmi_comments
Subject: Template

Technologies With Broad Impact

1. What criteria should be used to select technology focus areas?

   I will raise a caution. When the government supports or focuses on one industry sector or technology, it is "playing favorites." In effect, you are using taxes paid by one company or set of companies to favor other companies. In my own company's case, several SBIR loans put a company into business that almost wiped us out. While we were spending our own money to develop new products and new technologies, this other company was well funded via the federal government.

   It is best if the approach is one of making ALL companies more competitive and more able to invest money on new and innovative technologies by LOWERING CORPORATE TAX RATES or CAPITAL GAINS tax rates. We have the highest corporate taxes in the world. And if you lower capital gains tax rates, more of the wealth will be invested in start-ups, potentially risky investments, etc.

   Now, I'm not sure whether anyone reading this will do anything about it . . . but what you are trying to do is very inefficient. Look at the hundreds of millions of dollars wasted in green energy. What did we get for this? Was this the best use of funds?

   One other point, you have just passed a 2.3% tax on medical device revenues. This is not a tax on profits...it is a tax on revenues. If my company sales $20 million in medical devices . . . and I bring $1 million to the bottom line, my federal tax rate (corporate income taxes) is $390,000. ON TOP OF THIS I now pay the 2.3% tax . . or $460,000. This leaves $50,000 to co-invest in a program such as this. FORGET IT!

2. What technology focus areas that meet these criteria would you be willing to co-invest in?

   I would not invest in anything that represents a potential threat to the health of my business. So, by definition, whatever I would invest in I would want to have access to the intellectual property.

3. What measures could demonstrate that Institute technology activities assist U.S. manufacturing?
4. What measures could assess the performance and impact of Institutes?

Institute Structure and Governance

5. What business models would be effective for the Institutes to manage business decisions?
6. What governance models would be effective for the Institutes to manage governance decisions?
7. What membership and participation structure would be effective for the Institutes, such as financial and intellectual property obligations, access and licensing?
8. How should a network of Institutes optimally operate?
9. What measures could assess effectiveness of Network structure and governance?

Strategies for Sustainable Institute Operations

10. How should initial funding co-investments of the Federal government and others be organized by types and proportions
11. What arrangements for co-investment proportions and types could help an Institute become self-sustaining?
12. What measures could assess progress of an Institute towards being self-sustaining?
13. What actions or conditions could improve how Institute operations support domestic manufacturing facilities while maintaining consistency with our international obligations?
14. How should Institutes engage other manufacturing related programs and networks?
15. How should Institutes interact with state and local economic development authorities?
16. What measures could assess Institute contributions to long term national security and competitiveness?

Education and Workforce Development

17. How could Institutes support advanced manufacturing workforce development at all educational levels?
18. How could Institutes ensure that advanced manufacturing workforce development activities address industry needs?
19. How could Institutes and the NNMI leverage and complement other education and workforce development programs?
20. What measures could assess Institute performance and impact on education and workforce development?
21. How might institutes integrate R&D activities and education to best prepare the current and future workforce