



May 23, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Science, Space and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Science, Space and Technology Committee
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson:

As an organization representing over 240 industry and academic institutions involved in computing research and six affiliated professional societies, the Computing Research Association is pleased to support your efforts to bolster Federal information technology research through the *Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Modernization Act of 2016*.

As you are aware, advances in information technology are transforming all aspects of our lives. Virtually every human endeavor today has been touched by information technology, including commerce, education, employment, health care, energy, manufacturing, governance, national security, communications, the environment, entertainment, science and engineering. The profound reach of IT is enabled in large part by the innovations that spawn from the IT research ecosystem – that incredibly productive, yet complex interplay of industry, universities and the Federal government. Indeed, nearly every sub-sector of the IT economy today bears the stamp of Federal support. The program responsible for overseeing this crucial investment is the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) program.

We believe this Act makes the NITRD program stronger by improving the planning and coordination of the National Coordination Office for NITRD, requiring that the NCO and the NITRD agencies create a five-year strategic plan for the program, and requiring the periodic review and assessment of the program contents and funding. All have been recommendations of the President's Council of Advisors for Science and Technology in their recent reviews of the program.

We thank you for your work on this legislation and for your long-standing support of the Federal investment in IT research. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues as you endeavor to move the legislation forward this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan B Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan B. Davidson
Chair, Board of Directors