April 11, 2013

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Cantor, Leader Pelosi, and Rep. Hoyer:

The undersigned companies and organizations, representing entities that employ millions of Americans in advanced manufacturing and scientific research, urge you to promptly schedule a floor vote on the "Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act" (H.R. 527).

Under current law, later this year the Federal Helium Reserve – a federal facility that provides 30 percent of global supplies of helium and 40 percent of U.S. supplies – will no longer be authorized to sell helium to private users, which would further exacerbate the supply constraints and price increases we are currently experiencing in the helium market. Legislation is urgently needed to authorize the Reserve to continue sales of helium to private users and avoid damage to critical sectors of the American economy. House passage of H.R. 527, a bipartisan bill that passed the Natural Resources Committee by voice vote on March 20, would be an important and positive step forward toward this goal.

Helium is a critical input in the manufacturing process for a range of technologies, including semiconductors, aerospace, medical devices, chemicals, and fiber optics. It is also widely-used in scientific research. There is no known substitute for helium in many of these industrial and scientific applications. Therefore, enacting legislation to ensure a secure and continuous supply of helium is essential to maintaining U.S. leadership in both advanced manufacturing and cutting-edge scientific research.

Time is of the essence to address the helium supply, and we respectfully request that you schedule a vote on this important legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

American Physical Society
Applied Materials
Corning Incorporated
Cree, Inc.

The Dow Chemical Company
Fairchild Semiconductor
Freescale Semiconductor
General Electric Company
GLOBALFOUNDRIES Inc.
Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC)
Intel Corporation
IBM Corporation
Kodak
Materials Research Society
Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA)
Micron Technology Incorporated
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
ON Semiconductor
Philips
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
Siemens
Texas Instruments Incorporated

cc: Chairman Doc Hastings
Ranking Member Edward J. Markey