



Office of the Chancellor  
**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

June 8, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Smith:

Thank you for your leadership in advancing the bipartisan *Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Modernization Act of 2016*. As our nation and its citizens become increasingly connected through information technology, the need to reauthorize this critical program is evident.

We especially applaud the Committee for updating the program to focus on large-scale, long-term transformative interdisciplinary research. We face growing challenges that are complex and interrelated—from cybersecurity threats to human interfaces with information technology—that require new approaches to research and development. To this end, we are also pleased to see an increased focus in this legislation on Grand Challenges and cyber security needs.

As a leader in cybersecurity and information technology research and education, Texas A&M University is proud to partner with industry and Federal agencies to provide solutions to some of our nation's most vexing issues. The National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated Texas A&M University as a National Center of Academic Excellence, both in education and in research. This well-regarded designation places Texas A&M among a select group of only 30 universities that have earned both distinctions. Further the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) provides a wide variety of online cybersecurity training for community leaders and businesses from cyberlaw and white collar crime to ethics to risk management and network vulnerability assessment. Given the rapidly expanding workforce needs in this area, Texas A&M prides itself on preparing students and professionals to keep our nation competitive.

We are grateful for your leadership of the Science Committee and the work that you have put into this legislation. We look forward to continuing our work with you in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,



John Sharp  
Chancellor