

January 24, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am writing on behalf of the [Bayh-Dole Coalition](#) to congratulate you on your decisive electoral victory and offer our best wishes as you take office.

We are a diverse group of American innovation-oriented organizations and individuals committed to celebrating and protecting the [Bayh-Dole Act](#), a visionary, bipartisan law that allows U.S. universities, small businesses, government laboratories, and nonprofit research centers utilizing federal funding to partner with our private sector to turn resulting inventions into useful products.

Before Bayh-Dole, the federal government claimed the patent rights to any invention it helped fund. As a result, many important discoveries were [condemned](#) to sit on the shelf because the incentives and authorities needed for the private sector to commercialize them were destroyed. Bayh-Dole stopped this waste by decentralizing the ownership and management of these discoveries from the Washington bureaucracy into the hands of their creators. That helped launch one of the greatest eras of innovation in human history. Over the past 25 years alone, public-private R&D collaborations enabled by the Bayh-Dole Act have [contributed](#) nearly two trillion dollars to U.S. industrial output and supported millions of jobs for U.S. workers, engineers, and scientists. Unfortunately, that is now in jeopardy because of several actions by the last administration.

Under [your tremendous leadership](#) in your first term, you defended the Bayh-Dole Act against attempts to reimpose Washington micro-management of the commercialization process. The Biden Administration left two such threats hanging over the system, which, if left unchecked, condemn many promising inventions from being developed under your tenure.

In their last days in office, the Biden Administration put in place [guidelines](#) for private sector licensing of inventions made at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which undermine the incentives companies require to assume the risks and expense of turning these discoveries into useful products. They also left hanging over the entire Bayh-Dole system [march-in guidelines](#), allowing the bureaucracy to set prices for products that incorporate federally-funded patents. Both efforts contradict the plain meaning of Bayh-Dole and related legislation and should be immediately rescinded as they deny American taxpayers the full return on investment they deserve for supporting cutting-edge research in our universities and federal laboratories.

Since its enactment in 1980, the Bayh-Dole Act has transformed hundreds of billions of federal research and development dollars into groundbreaking products, jobs, companies, and even new industries without creating any new bureaucracy or imposing any costs on the American taxpayer. As a result, the United States reclaimed its leadership in innovation. We cannot afford to put that in peril at a time when China is working diligently to replace us as the dominant economic power in the world.

Bayh-Dole has been a cornerstone of the American economy, helping to create revolutionary products that build U.S. wealth, strengthen our manufacturing base, and restore our lead over foreign competitors while improving lives here and around the world. Life-saving medicines, breakthrough energy technologies, and cutting-edge advancements in transportation are just some of the [innovations](#) that have come to market thanks to Bayh-Dole.

If it again receives your protection and support, the Bayh-Dole Act will play a critical role in your administration's efforts to unleash American innovation, revitalize our economy, and create millions of good-paying jobs across the country. The Bayh-Dole Coalition is ready once again to support you in that critical effort.

Again, congratulations. We look forward to working with your administration to make the next four years the most innovative and prosperous yet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph P. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joseph P. Allen
Executive Director
Bayh-Dole Coalition