**The Minds We Need: Research and Education Infrastructure**

**Inclusion, Innovation, and Competitiveness**

**Statement of Support**

[Add your organization’s letterhead]

[Month ##, 2021]

[Elected Official Title and Name]

[Address]

[Name of your organization] submits this letter in strong support of *The Minds We Need* ([mindsweneed.org](https://mindsweneed.org/)). The paper calls for a $5.07 Billion one-time Federal investment to expand the US research and education infrastructure as a critical component of a national broadband strategy.

R&E infrastructure is more than just broadband networks—it also includes software, tools, and security resources, and it provides access to computational resources and data, along with the necessary human expertise to integrate and use these resources for innovation, discovery, and national competitiveness. At [name of your organization], we see on a daily basis the crucial role R&E infrastructure plays in fulfilling the mission of our institution. [Optional: Add a short description and/or examples.]

The most inclusive, forward-thinking national broadband strategy must also take advantage of the transformative power of R&E infrastructure, ensuring that it reaches *every* community through our nation’s diverse system of 3,900 accredited, degree-granting higher education institutions, and ensuring that there is a bridge to opportunity wherever there is talent.

We know that talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not. We know that R&E infrastructure is essential for our scientific and engineering talent to flourish. To retain and build upon our nation’s role as the leading economy in the world, we must:

* **Connect every community college, every minority serving institution, and every college and university**, including all urban, rural, and tribal institutions to a world-class and secure R&E infrastructure, with particular attention to institutions that have been chronically underserved;
* **Engage and empower every student and researcher** everywhere with the opportunity to join collaborative environments of the future, because we cannot know where the next Edison, Carver, Curie, McClintock, Einstein, or Katherine Johnson will come from; and
* **Ensure American competitiveness and leadership** by investing holistically in national R&E infrastructure as a sustainable system.

To realize these objectives, *The Minds We Need* outlines a three-phase, holistic action plan that integrates local, state, and national needs across network, security, trust and identity tools, collaboration, and training needs. The approach includes bottom-up assessment and analysis, inventorying implementation needs and building the people networks and directional consensus where these do not yet exist. It also recognizes the need for top-down coordination, prioritization, and end-to-end expectation setting through national leadership and key Federal agencies.

Your recognition and support of *The Minds We Need* is an investment in inclusion, innovation, and competitiveness. Expanding R&E infrastructure to connect, empower, and enable the next generation of American leaders will have tangible benefits that span our educational institutions, modern healthcare and medical research, climate and weather modeling to save lives and protect property, advancements in sustainable agriculture and food safety, and more. In collaboration with our partners across the R&E community, and with support from federal policymakers like you, we will advance R&E infrastructure to unleash new waves of discovery, jobs, economic growth, and enduring leadership on the world stage.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]

**About [name of your organization]:** [About your organization boilerplate].

**Enclosure:** *The Minds We Need: Research and Education Infrastructure Inclusion, Innovation, and Competitiveness*