



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary for Technology
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

June 8, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Given your engagement in nanotechnology and its future, I am writing to seek your participation in my agency's research on barriers to nanotechnology commercialization and solutions for overcoming these barriers.

I invite you to share your experience and insights on the commercialization of nanotechnology and how we can work together to overcome the barriers identified. The results of our research will contribute to an analysis and report by my agency, the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration, that will seek to inform policymaking so that government at all levels can help unleash the full potential of nanotechnology.

Perhaps no single technology offers more economic and societal promise than nanotechnology. Nanotechnology holds the promise of both incremental improvements of existing products and the potential for revolutionary changes that could transform entire industries and create entirely new ones.

To ensure U.S. technological leadership in this emerging field, the Federal government initiated the U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative in 2001 and has subsequently invested more than \$5 billion in nanotechnology research. For 2008, President Bush has proposed \$1.4 billion for nanotechnology research, a three-fold increase since 2001. State governments and the private sector have invested billions as well. Early applications of nanotechnology are already yielding dividends on our investments.

Nevertheless, barriers and potential barriers that impede further commercialization may limit our ability to capture the full potential of nanotechnology, including economic growth, wealth and job creation, and improvements in our standard of living and quality of life. These barriers may include capital issues, market readiness, regulatory uncertainty, health and safety, workforce readiness, public attitudes and perceptions, infrastructure, standards, nomenclature, and manufacturability.

You will be contacted shortly by my office or Dean Ronald McNeil of the University of Illinois and invited to participate in a roundtable discussion, a focus group or an interview.

Thank you for your support of this important research effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Cresanti".

Robert C. Cresanti