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## **President's Information Technology Advisory Committee**

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### **Presidential Commission Sees Nation Benefiting from Increased Information Technology Funding**

The President's Information Technology Advisory Committee on High Performance Computing and Communications, Information Technology, and the Next Generation Internet -- a panel of corporate leaders and university experts appointed by President Clinton -- sent a letter to the President last week urging that public investments in computer, communication, and other information technology research be significantly expanded to ensure an ever-increasing standard of living and quality of life for our people.

The Committee concluded that "...information technology presents enormous opportunities for growing the economy and improving health care, education, public safety, the environment and many other areas of importance to the nation...we should be increasing, not reducing federal investments in this critical area."

The letter is signed by the co-chairs of the committee, Ken Kennedy, the Ann and John Doerr Professor of Computational Engineering at Rice University, and Bill Joy, Vice President for Research at Sun Microsystems. A report detailing the committee's recommendations is scheduled to be released in early July, 1998.

In his June 5, 1998 commencement address at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, President Clinton underscored his commitment to a strong federal program in this area when he said "...in just the past four years, information technology has been responsible for more than a third of our economic expansion. Without government-funded research, computers, the Internet, communications satellites wouldn't have gotten started. In the budget I submit to Congress for the year 2000, I will call for significant increases in computing and communications

research. I have directed Dr. Neal Lane, my new Advisor for Science and Technology, to work with our nation's research community to prepare a detailed plan for my review."

Responding to the Committee's letter, Dr. Neal Lane said, "As we enter the 21st century, our ability to harness the power and the promise of leading-edge advances in information technology will determine, in large measure, our national prosperity, security, and global influence. I share the Committee's belief in the importance of increasing our investments, within tight budget constraints, to advance information technology in innovative ways; and I look forward to working closely with them to identify the most critical areas of research."