

# An Open Letter to the GOP Presidential Candidates

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This is an open letter we sent to the GOP Presidential candidates in conjunction with the release of our memo, *GOP Candidates: On the Road to Nowhere*.



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Rep. Michele Bachmann  
Mr. Herman Cain  
Speaker Newt Gingrich  
Ambassador Jon Huntsman  
Rep. Ron Paul  
Gov. Tim Pawlenty  
Gov. Mitt Romney

Dear Sirs and Madam:

As you continue in your respective campaigns for the Republican nomination for president, I would ask that you take a moment to consider one illustrious component of your party's long history—a dedication to federal investment in American innovation.

Many in the GOP now claim that the private sector alone can produce the technologies America needs to compete in the global economy and federal R&D budgets should therefore be slashed. This ignores the fact that some of our greatest technological breakthroughs and subsequent market successes would never have happened without the cooperation and financial support of the federal government. And it happened under Republican presidents.

From Lincoln to Eisenhower to Reagan, your party has recognized the critical importance of investing in innovation, even during times of economic hardship and government austerity. Their efforts allowed the U.S. to take the lead in the railroad, computing, and defense technologies sectors, providing our nation with tremendous economic gains. With the global clean energy sector poised to grow exponentially, this country needs a leader who will actively engage in R&D efforts to make sure America will lead in this emerging economy as well.

As the campaign progresses, Third Way looks forward to seeing if and how you choose to carry on the great Republican tradition of investing in American innovation and partnering with American industries to ensure that we continue to lead in the economy of the future.

Sincerely,  
  
Joshua S. Freed  
Vice President for Clean Energy

Encl: Third Way Memo – GOP Candidates: *On the Road to Nowhere*

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