

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 537

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the alternative simplified research credit, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the alternative simplified research credit, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as  
5       the “Competitiveness and Opportunity by Modernizing and  
6       Permanently Extending the Tax Credit for Experimen-  
7       tation Act of 2015” or the “COMPETE Act of 2015”.

8       (b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as other-  
9       wise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amend-  
10      ment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment

1 to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference  
 2 shall be considered to be made to a section or other provi-  
 3 sion of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

4 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF**  
 5 **RESEARCH CREDIT.**

6 (a) SIMPLIFIED CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED RESEARCH  
 7 EXPENSES.—Subsection (a) of section 41 is amended to  
 8 read as follows:

9 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,  
 10 the research credit determined under this section for the  
 11 taxable year shall be an amount equal to 25 percent of  
 12 so much of the qualified research expenses for the taxable  
 13 year as exceeds 50 percent of the average qualified re-  
 14 search expenses for the 3 taxable years preceding the tax-  
 15 able year for which the credit is being determined.”.

16 (b) SPECIAL RULES AND TERMINATION OF BASE  
 17 AMOUNT CALCULATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 41  
 19 is amended to read as follows:

20 “(c) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF NO QUALIFIED RE-  
 21 SEARCH EXPENSES IN ANY OF 3 PRECEDING TAXABLE  
 22 YEARS.—

23 “(1) TAXPAYERS TO WHICH SUBSECTION AP-  
 24 PLIES.—The credit under this section shall be deter-  
 25 mined under this subsection, and not under sub-

1 section (a), if, in any one of the 3 taxable years pre-  
 2 ceding the taxable year for which the credit is being  
 3 determined, the taxpayer has no qualified research  
 4 expenses.

5 “(2) CREDIT RATE.—The credit determined  
 6 under this subsection shall be equal to 10 percent of  
 7 the qualified research expenses for the taxable  
 8 year.”.

9 (2) CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF EXPENSES.—  
 10 Subsection (b) of section 41 is amended by adding  
 11 at the end the following new paragraph:

12 “(5) CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF EXPENSES  
 13 REQUIRED.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding  
 15 whether the period for filing a claim for credit  
 16 or refund has expired for any taxable year in  
 17 the 3-taxable-year period taken into account  
 18 under subsection (a), the qualified research ex-  
 19 penses taken into account for such year shall be  
 20 determined on a basis consistent with the deter-  
 21 mination of qualified research expenses for the  
 22 credit year.

23 “(B) PREVENTION OF DISTORTIONS.—The  
 24 Secretary may prescribe regulations to prevent  
 25 distortions in calculating a taxpayer’s qualified

1 research expenses caused by a change in ac-  
 2 counting methods used by such taxpayer be-  
 3 tween the credit year and a year in such 3-tax-  
 4 able-year period.”.

5 (c) INCLUSION OF QUALIFIED RESEARCH EXPENSES  
 6 OF AN ACQUIRED PERSON.—

7 (1) PARTIAL INCLUSION OF PRE-ACQUISITION  
 8 QUALIFIED RESEARCH EXPENSES.—Subparagraph  
 9 (A) of section 41(f)(3) is amended to read as fol-  
 10 lows:

11 “(A) ACQUISITIONS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If a person ac-  
 13 quires the major portion of a trade or busi-  
 14 ness of another person (hereinafter in this  
 15 paragraph referred to as the ‘predecessor’)  
 16 or the major portion of a separate unit of  
 17 a trade or business of a predecessor, then  
 18 the amount of qualified research expenses  
 19 paid or incurred by the acquiring person  
 20 during the 3 taxable years preceding the  
 21 taxable year in which the credit under this  
 22 section is determined shall be increased  
 23 by—

24 “(I) for purposes of applying this  
 25 section for the taxable year in which

1 such acquisition is made, the amount  
2 determined under clause (ii), and

3 “(II) for purposes of applying  
4 this section for any taxable year after  
5 the taxable year in which such acqui-  
6 sition is made, so much of the quali-  
7 fied research expenses paid or in-  
8 curred by the predecessor with respect  
9 to the acquired trade or business dur-  
10 ing the portion of the measurement  
11 period that is part of the 3-taxable-  
12 year period preceding the taxable year  
13 for which the credit is determined as  
14 is attributable to the portion of such  
15 trade or business or separate unit ac-  
16 quired by such person.

17 “(ii) AMOUNT DETERMINED.—The  
18 amount determined under this clause is the  
19 amount equal to the product of—

20 “(I) so much of the qualified re-  
21 search expenses paid or incurred by  
22 the predecessor with respect to the ac-  
23 quired trade or business during the 3  
24 taxable years before the taxable year  
25 in which the acquisition is made as is

1           attributable to the portion of such  
 2           trade or business or separate unit ac-  
 3           quired by the acquiring person, and

4                   “(II) the number of months in  
 5           the period beginning on the date of  
 6           the acquisition and ending on the last  
 7           day of the taxable year in which the  
 8           acquisition is made,

9           divided by 12.

10                   “(iii) SPECIAL RULES FOR COORDI-  
 11           NATING TAXABLE YEARS.—In the case of  
 12           an acquiring person and a predecessor  
 13           whose taxable years do not begin on the  
 14           same date—

15                   “(I) each reference to a taxable  
 16           year in clauses (i) and (ii) shall refer  
 17           to the appropriate taxable year of the  
 18           acquiring person,

19                   “(II) the qualified research ex-  
 20           penses paid or incurred by the prede-  
 21           cessor during each taxable year of the  
 22           predecessor any portion of which is  
 23           part of the measurement period shall  
 24           be allocated equally among the  
 25           months of such taxable year, and

1 “(III) the amount of such quali-  
 2 fied research expenses taken into ac-  
 3 count under clauses (i) and (ii) with  
 4 respect to a taxable year of the ac-  
 5 quiring person shall be equal to the  
 6 total of the expenses attributable  
 7 under subclause (II) to the months oc-  
 8 curring during such taxable year.

9 “(iv) MEASUREMENT PERIOD.—For  
 10 purposes of this subparagraph, the term  
 11 ‘measurement period’ means the taxable  
 12 year of the acquiring person in which the  
 13 acquisition is made and the 3 taxable years  
 14 of the acquiring person preceding such tax-  
 15 able year.”.

16 (2) EXPENSES OF A PREDECESSOR.—Subpara-  
 17 graph (B) of section 41(f)(3) is amended to read as  
 18 follows:

19 “(B) DISPOSITIONS.—If the predecessor  
 20 furnished to the acquiring person such informa-  
 21 tion as is necessary for the application of sub-  
 22 paragraph (A), then, for purposes of applying  
 23 this section for any taxable year ending after  
 24 such disposition, the amount of qualified re-  
 25 search expenses paid or incurred by the prede-

cessor during the 3 taxable years preceding  
such taxable year shall be reduced—

“(i) in the case of the taxable year in  
which such disposition is made, by an  
amount equal to the product of—

“(I) the amount of qualified re-  
search expenses paid or incurred dur-  
ing such 3 taxable years with respect  
to the acquired business, and

“(II) the number of days in the  
period beginning on the date of acqui-  
sition (as determined for purposes of  
subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)) and ending  
on the last day of the taxable year of  
the predecessor in which the disposi-  
tion is made,

divided by the number of days in the tax-  
able year of the predecessor, and

“(ii) in the case of any taxable year  
ending after the taxable year in which such  
disposition is made, the amount described  
in clause (i)(I).”.

(d) AGGREGATION OF EXPENDITURES.—Paragraph

(1) of section 41(f) is amended—



1           (1) by striking “of the qualified research ex-  
 2           penses, basic research payments, and amounts paid  
 3           or incurred to energy research consortiums,” in sub-  
 4           paragraph (A)(ii) and inserting “qualified research  
 5           expenses”, and

6           (2) by striking “of the qualified research ex-  
 7           penses, basic research payments, and amounts paid  
 8           or incurred to energy research consortiums,” in sub-  
 9           paragraph (B)(ii) and inserting “qualified research  
 10          expenses”.

11          (e) SPLIT 100 PERCENT CREDIT FOR CONTRACT RE-  
 12          SEARCH EXPENSES.—Subparagraph (A) of section  
 13          41(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

14                       “(A) IN GENERAL.—

15                       “(i) TAXPAYERS PAYING FOR CON-  
 16                       TRACTED RESEARCH.—The term ‘contract  
 17                       research expenses’ means 65 percent of  
 18                       any amount paid or incurred by the tax-  
 19                       payer to any person (other than an em-  
 20                       ployee of the taxpayer) for qualified re-  
 21                       search.

22                       “(ii) TAXPAYERS PERFORMING CON-  
 23                       TRACTED RESEARCH.—In the case of a  
 24                       taxpayer (other than an entity described in  
 25                       subparagraph (C) or (D) or paragraph

1 (5)(C)) who receives amounts from any  
2 person (other than an employer of the tax-  
3 payer) for qualified research on behalf of  
4 such person, the term ‘contract research  
5 expenses’ means so much of the qualified  
6 research expenses paid or incurred by the  
7 taxpayer as does not exceed 35 percent of  
8 the amounts so received from such person.

9 “(iii) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes  
10 of clause (ii)—

11 “(I) TRADE OR BUSINESS.—The  
12 qualified research expenses of the tax-  
13 payer shall be determined as if the  
14 trade or business of the taxpayer were  
15 the conduct of qualified research on  
16 behalf of other persons.

17 “(II) RESEARCH NOT TREATED  
18 AS FUNDED RESEARCH.—Subpara-  
19 graph (H) of subsection (d)(4) shall  
20 not apply.

21 “(III) QUALIFIED RESEARCH.—  
22 The qualified research expenses of a  
23 taxpayer shall be determined as if the  
24 conditions of subparagraph (B) of  
25 subsection (d)(1) are satisfied if the

1 business component described in sub-  
 2 paragraph (B)(ii) thereof is a business  
 3 component of either of the taxpayers  
 4 described in clauses (i) and (ii).

5 “(IV) LIMITATION.—The quali-  
 6 fied research expenses of a taxpayer  
 7 shall not include any expenses that  
 8 would not be eligible as in-house re-  
 9 search expenses for purposes of para-  
 10 graph (2).

11 “(iv) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—  
 12 The amount of any in-house research ex-  
 13 penses taken into account under this sec-  
 14 tion with respect to a taxpayer described in  
 15 clause (ii) shall be reduced by the amount  
 16 of the contract research expenses taken  
 17 into account under such clause with re-  
 18 spect to such taxpayer for the taxable  
 19 year.”.

20 (f) INCLUSION OF BASIC RESEARCH PAYMENTS.—  
 21 Subsection (b) of section 41 is amended by redesignating  
 22 paragraph (5), as added by this section, as paragraph (6),  
 23 and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new  
 24 paragraph:

25 “(5) BASIC RESEARCH PAYMENTS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of basic  
 2           research payments made by the taxpayer, para-  
 3           graph (3)(A) shall be applied by substituting  
 4           ‘100 percent’ for ‘65 percent’.

5           “(B) BASIC RESEARCH PAYMENTS.—For  
 6           purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘basic re-  
 7           search payment’ means, with respect to any  
 8           taxable year, any amount paid in cash during  
 9           such taxable year by a corporation to any quali-  
 10          fied organization for basic research, but only  
 11          if—

12                   “(i) such payment is made pursuant  
 13                   to a written agreement between such cor-  
 14                   poration and such qualified organization,  
 15                   and

16                   “(ii) except in the case of a payment  
 17                   to a qualified organization described in  
 18                   clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (C),  
 19                   such basic research is to be performed by  
 20                   such qualified organization.

21           “(C) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—For  
 22           purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘qualified  
 23           organization’ means any of the following orga-  
 24           nizations:

1 “(i) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—

2 Any educational organization which—

3 “(I) is an institution of higher  
4 education (within the meaning of sec-  
5 tion 3304(f)), and

6 “(II) is described in section  
7 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).

8 “(ii) CERTAIN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
9 ORGANIZATIONS.—Any organization not  
10 described in clause (i) which—

11 “(I) is described in section  
12 501(c)(3) and is exempt from tax  
13 under section 501(a),

14 “(II) is organized and operated  
15 primarily to conduct scientific re-  
16 search, and

17 “(III) is not a private founda-  
18 tion.

19 “(iii) SCIENTIFIC TAX-EXEMPT ORGA-  
20 NIZATIONS.—Any organization which—

21 “(I) is described in section  
22 501(c)(3) (other than a private foun-  
23 dation) or section 501(c)(6),

24 “(II) is exempt from tax under  
25 section 501(a),

1 “(III) is organized and operated  
2 primarily to promote scientific re-  
3 search by qualified organizations de-  
4 scribed in clause (i) pursuant to writ-  
5 ten research agreements, and

6 “(IV) currently expends substan-  
7 tially all of its funds or substantially  
8 all of the basic research payments re-  
9 ceived by it for grants to, or contracts  
10 for basic research with, an organiza-  
11 tion described in clause (i).

12 “(iv) CERTAIN GRANT ORGANIZA-  
13 TIONS.—Any organization not described in  
14 clause (ii) or (iii) which—

15 “(I) is described in section  
16 501(c)(3) and is exempt from tax  
17 under section 501(a) (other than a  
18 private foundation),

19 “(II) is established and main-  
20 tained by an organization established  
21 before July 10, 1981, which meets the  
22 requirements of subclause (I),

23 “(III) is organized and operated  
24 exclusively for the purpose of making  
25 grants to organizations described in

1 clause (i) pursuant to written research  
 2 agreements for purposes of basic re-  
 3 search, and

4 “(IV) makes an election, rev-  
 5 ocable only with the consent of the  
 6 Secretary, to be treated as a private  
 7 foundation for purposes of this title  
 8 (other than section 4940, relating to  
 9 excise tax based on investment in-  
 10 come).

11 “(D) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

12 For purposes of this paragraph—

13 “(i) BASIC RESEARCH.—The term  
 14 ‘basic research’ means any original inves-  
 15 tigation for the advancement of scientific  
 16 knowledge not having a specific commercial  
 17 objective, except that such term shall not  
 18 include—

19 “(I) basic research conducted  
 20 outside of the United States, and

21 “(II) basic research in the social  
 22 sciences, arts, or humanities.

23 “(ii) TRADE OR BUSINESS QUALIFICA-  
 24 TION.—For purposes of applying para-  
 25 graph (1) to this paragraph, any basic re-

1 search payments shall be treated as an  
 2 amount paid in carrying on a trade or  
 3 business of the taxpayer in the taxable  
 4 year in which it is paid (without regard to  
 5 the provisions of paragraph (3)(B)).

6 “(iii) CERTAIN CORPORATIONS NOT  
 7 ELIGIBLE.—The term ‘corporation’ shall  
 8 not include—

9 “(I) an S corporation,

10 “(II) a personal holding company  
 11 (as defined in section 542), or

12 “(III) a service organization (as  
 13 defined in section 414(m)(3)).”.

14 (g) PERMANENT EXTENSION.—

15 (1) Section 41 is amended by striking sub-  
 16 section (h).

17 (2) Paragraph (1) of section 45C(b) is amended  
 18 by striking subparagraph (D).

19 (h) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) TERMINATION OF BASIC RESEARCH PAY-  
 21 MENT CALCULATION.—Section 41 is amended—

22 (A) by striking subsection (e),

23 (B) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
 24 section (e), and



1 (C) by relocating subsection (e), as so re-  
 2 designated, immediately after subsection (d).

3 (2) SPECIAL RULES.—

4 (A) Paragraph (4) of section 41(f) is  
 5 amended by striking “and gross receipts”.

6 (B) Subsection (f) of section 41 is amend-  
 7 ed by striking paragraph (6).

8 (3) CROSS-REFERENCES.—

9 (A) Subparagraph (B) of section 45C(b)(1)  
 10 is amended—

11 (i) by striking “paragraph (3)(A)” in  
 12 clause (ii) and inserting “paragraph  
 13 (3)(A)(i)”,

14 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
 15 of clause (ii) and inserting “, and”,

16 (iii) by striking “and” at the end of  
 17 clause (i), and

18 (iv) by adding at the end the following  
 19 new clause:

20 “(iii) by disregarding clauses (ii), (iii),  
 21 and (iv) of paragraph (3)(A) of such sub-  
 22 section.”.

23 (B) Paragraph (2) of section 45C(c) is  
 24 amended by striking “base period research ex-

1           penses” and inserting “average qualified re-  
2           search expenses”.

3           (C) Subparagraph (A) of section 54(l)(3)  
4           is amended by striking “section 41(g)” and in-  
5           serting “section 41(e)”.

6           (D) Clause (i) of section 170(e)(4)(B) is  
7           amended by striking “subparagraph (A) or sub-  
8           paragraph (B) of section 41(e)(6)” and insert-  
9           ing “clause (i) or clause (ii) of section  
10          41(b)(5)(C)”.

11          (E) Section 280C is amended—

12           (i) by striking “or basic research ex-  
13           penses (as defined in section 41(e)(2))” in  
14           subsection (c)(1),

15           (ii) by striking “section 41(a)(1)” in  
16           subsection (c)(2)(A) and inserting “section  
17           41(a)”, and

18           (iii) by striking “or basic research ex-  
19           penses” in subsection (c)(2)(B).

20          (F) Clause (i) of section 1400N(l)(7)(B) is  
21          amended by striking “section 41(g)” and insert-  
22          ing “section 41(e)”.

23          (i) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 409 is  
24          amended—

1           (1) by inserting “, as in effect before the enact-  
 2           ment of the Tax Reform Act of 1984)” after “sec-  
 3           tion 41(c)(1)(B)” in subsection (b)(1)(A),

4           (2) by inserting “, as in effect before the enact-  
 5           ment of the Tax Reform Act of 1984” after “relat-  
 6           ing to the employee stock ownership credit” in sub-  
 7           section (b)(4),

8           (3) by inserting “(as in effect before the enact-  
 9           ment of the Tax Reform Act of 1984)” after “sec-  
 10          tion 41(c)(1)(B)” in subsection (i)(1)(A),

11          (4) by inserting “(as in effect before the enact-  
 12          ment of the Tax Reform Act of 1984)” after “sec-  
 13          tion 41(c)(1)(B)” in subsection (m), and

14          (5) by inserting “(as so in effect)” after “sec-  
 15          tion 48(n)(1)” in subsection (m).

16          (j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
 18           graphs (2) and (3), the amendments made by this  
 19           section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
 20           December 31, 2015.

21           (2) PERMANENT EXTENSION.—The amend-  
 22           ments made by subsection (g) shall apply to  
 23           amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2014.

1           (3) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The amend-  
 2           ments made by subsection (i) shall take effect on the  
 3           date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 3. EXCEPTION FROM PASSIVE LOSS RULES FOR IN-**  
 5 **VESTMENTS IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY RE-**  
 6 **SEARCH SMALL BUSINESS PASS-THRU ENTI-**  
 7 **TIES.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 469 is  
 9           amended by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (7) as  
 10          paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively, and by inserting  
 11          after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

12           “(4) HIGH TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ACTIVI-  
 13          TIES.—

14           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘passive ac-  
 15          tivity’ shall not include any qualified research  
 16          activity of the taxpayer carried on by a high  
 17          technology research small business pass-thru  
 18          entity.

19           “(B) TREATMENT OF LOSSES AND DEDUC-  
 20          TIONS.—

21           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Losses or deduc-  
 22          tions of a taxpayer in connection with  
 23          qualified research activities carried on by a  
 24          high technology research small business  
 25          pass-thru entity shall not be treated as

1 losses or deductions, respectively, from a  
2 passive activity except as provided in  
3 clause (ii) and subparagraph (C).

4 “(ii) LIMITATION.—Clause (i) shall  
5 apply to losses and deductions of a tax-  
6 payer in connection with a high technology  
7 small business pass-thru entity for a tax-  
8 able year only to the extent that the aggre-  
9 gate losses and deductions of the taxpayer  
10 in connection with qualified research activi-  
11 ties of such entity for such taxable year do  
12 not exceed the portion of the taxpayer’s  
13 adjusted basis in the taxpayer’s ownership  
14 interest in such entity that is attributable  
15 to money or other property contributed—

16 “(I) in exchange for such owner-  
17 ship interest, and

18 “(II) specifically for use in con-  
19 nection with qualified research activi-  
20 ties.

21 For purposes of the preceding sentence,  
22 the taxpayer’s basis shall not include any  
23 portion of such basis which is attributable  
24 to an increase in a partner’s share of the  
25 liabilities of a partnership that is consid-

1           ered under section 752(a) as a contribution  
2           of money.

3           “(C) TREATMENT OF CARRYOVERS.—Sub-  
4           paragraph (B)(i) shall not apply to the portion  
5           of any loss or deduction that is carried over  
6           under subsection (b) into a taxable year other  
7           than the taxable year in which such loss or de-  
8           duction arose.

9           “(D) QUALIFIED RESEARCH ACTIVITY.—  
10          For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
11          ‘qualified research activity’ means any activity  
12          constituting qualified research (within the  
13          meaning of section 41(d)(1)(B) and taking into  
14          account paragraphs (3) and (4) of section  
15          41(d)) which involves a process of experimen-  
16          tation.

17          “(E) HIGH TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH  
18          SMALL BUSINESS PASS-THRU ENTITY.—For  
19          purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘high tech-  
20          nology research small business pass-thru entity’  
21          means any domestic pass-thru entity for any  
22          taxable year if—

23                 “(i) either—

24                         “(I) more than 75 percent of the  
25                         entity’s expenditures (including sala-

1           ries, rent and overhead) for such tax-  
2           able year are paid or incurred in con-  
3           nection with qualified research (within  
4           the meaning of section 41(d)(1)(B),  
5           taking into account paragraphs (3)  
6           and (4) of section 41(d)) that involves  
7           a process of experimentation con-  
8           ducted by the entity, or

9                   “(II) more than 50 percent of  
10           the entity’s expenditures for such tax-  
11           able year constitute qualified research  
12           expenses (as defined in section 41(b),  
13           but determined without regard to the  
14           phrase ‘65 percent of’ in paragraph  
15           (3)(A) thereof),

16                   “(ii) such entity is a small business  
17           (within the meaning of section  
18           41(b)(3)(D)(iii), applied by substituting  
19           ‘250’ for ‘500’ in subclause (I) thereof),  
20           and

21                   “(iii) at no time during the taxable  
22           year does the entity have aggregate gross  
23           assets in excess of \$150,000,000.

“(F) PROVISIONS RELATED TO AGGREGATE GROSS ASSETS LIMITATION.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, the term ‘aggregate gross assets’ has the meaning given such term in section 1202(d)(2).

“(ii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INTANGIBLES.—Any section 197 intangible (as defined in section 197(d) and determined without regard to section 197(e)) which is used directly in connection with the research referred to in subparagraph (E)(i) shall not be taken into account in determining aggregate gross assets.

“(iii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENTS.—Cash from a sale of equity interests shall not be taken into account in determining aggregate gross assets if—

“(I) the aggregate gross assets of such entity (determined immediately after such sale and without regard to this clause) do not exceed the sum of



1           \$150,000,000, plus 25 percent of the  
2           aggregate gross assets of such entity  
3           (determined immediately before such  
4           sale and without regard to this  
5           clause), and

6           “(II) the aggregate gross assets  
7           of such entity (determined imme-  
8           diately before such sale and without  
9           regard to this clause) do not exceed  
10          \$150,000,000.

11         Sales of equity interests which are part of  
12         the same plan or arrangement, or which  
13         are carried out with the principal purpose  
14         of increasing the amount of cash to which  
15         this clause applies (determined without re-  
16         gard to this sentence), shall be treated as  
17         a single sale for purposes of this clause.

18         “(iv) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In  
19         the case of any taxable year beginning  
20         after 2016, the \$150,000,000 amount in  
21         subparagraph (E)(iii) and subclauses (I)  
22         and (II) of clause (iii) shall each be in-  
23         creased by an amount equal to—

24                 “(I) such dollar amount, multi-  
25                 plied by

1 “(II) the cost of living adjust-  
 2 ment determined under section 1(f)(3)  
 3 for the calendar year in which the tax-  
 4 able year begins determined by sub-  
 5 stituting ‘calendar year 2015’ for ‘cal-  
 6 endar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B)  
 7 thereof.

8 Any increase determined under the pre-  
 9 ceding sentence shall be rounded to the  
 10 nearest \$100,000.

11 “(G) CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TAKEN INTO  
 12 ACCOUNT FOR EXPENDITURES TEST.—An ex-  
 13 penditure shall not fail to be taken into account  
 14 under subparagraph (E)(i) merely because such  
 15 expenditure is chargeable to capital account.

16 “(H) PASS-THRU ENTITY.—For purposes  
 17 of this paragraph, the term ‘pass-thru entity’  
 18 means any partnership, S corporation, or other  
 19 entity identified by the Secretary as a pass-thru  
 20 entity for purposes of this paragraph.

21 “(I) AGGREGATION RULES.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—All persons treat-  
 23 ed as a single employer under subsection  
 24 (a) or (b) of section 52, or subsection (m)  
 25 or (o) of section 414, shall be treated as a

1 single entity for purposes of subparagraphs  
 2 (E) and (F)(iii).

3 “(ii) LIMITATION WHERE ENTITY  
 4 WOULD NOT QUALIFY.—No entity shall be  
 5 treated as a high technology research small  
 6 business pass-thru entity unless such enti-  
 7 ty qualifies as such both with and without  
 8 the application of clause (i).

9 “(J) ACTIVITIES NOT ENGAGED IN FOR  
 10 PROFIT AND ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE RULES.—  
 11 Section 183 and the economic substance rules  
 12 of section 7701(o) shall not apply to disallow  
 13 the losses, deductions, and credits of a high  
 14 technology research small business pass-thru  
 15 entity solely as a result of losses incurred by  
 16 such entity.”.

17 (b) MATERIAL PARTICIPATION NOT REQUIRED.—  
 18 Paragraph (5) of section 469(c) of such Code, as redesign-  
 19 nated by subsection (a), is amended by striking “and (3)”  
 20 in the heading and text and inserting “, (3), and (4)”.

21 (c) CERTAIN RESEARCH-RELATED DEDUCTIONS AND  
 22 CREDITS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH SMALL  
 23 BUSINESS PASS-THRU ENTITIES ALLOWED FOR PUR-  
 24 POSES OF DETERMINING ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—

1           (1) DEDUCTION FOR RESEARCH AND EXPERI-  
 2           MENTAL EXPENDITURES.—Paragraph (2) of section  
 3           56(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end  
 4           the following new subparagraph:

5                   “(E) EXCEPTION FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
 6           RESEARCH SMALL BUSINESS PASS-THRU ENTI-  
 7           TIES.—In the case of a high technology re-  
 8           search small business pass-thru entity (as de-  
 9           fined in section 469(c)(4)), this paragraph shall  
 10          not apply to any amount allowable as a deduc-  
 11          tion under section 174(a).”.

12          (2) ALLOWANCE OF CERTAIN RESEARCH-RE-  
 13          LATED CREDITS.—Subparagraph (B) of section  
 14          38(c)(4) of such Code is amended by redesignating  
 15          clauses (ii) through (ix) as clauses (iii) through (x),  
 16          respectively, and by inserting after clause (i) the fol-  
 17          lowing new clause:

18                   “(ii) the credits determined with re-  
 19           spect to an individual taxpayer under sec-  
 20           tions 41 and 48D to the extent attrib-  
 21           utable to a high technology research small  
 22           business pass-thru entity (as defined in  
 23           section 469(c)(4)),”.

24          (d) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON PASS-THRU OF  
 25          RESEARCH CREDIT.—Subsection (g) of section 41 of such

1 Code is amended by adding at the end the following:  
 2 “Paragraphs (2) and (4) shall not apply with respect to  
 3 any high technology research small business pass-thru en-  
 4 tity (as defined in section 469(c)(4)).”

5 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 6 this section shall apply to losses and credits arising in tax-  
 7 able years beginning on or after December 31, 2015.

8 **SEC. 4. CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST ALTERNATIVE MIN-**  
 9 **IMUM TAX.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section  
 11 38(c)(4), as amended by this Act, is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (x) as  
 13 clauses (iv) through (xi), respectively, and

14 (2) by inserting after clause (i) the following  
 15 new clause:

16 “(ii) for taxable years beginning after  
 17 December 31, 2015, the credit determined  
 18 under section 41,”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 20 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
 21 December 31, 2015.

22 **SEC. 5. TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING OF RESEARCH PARK FA-**  
 23 **CILITIES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 142 is  
 25 amended—

1           (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph  
2       (14),

3           (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
4       graph (15) and inserting “, or”, and

5           (3) by inserting at the end the following new  
6       paragraph:

7           “(16) research park facilities.”.

8       (b) DEFINITION.—Section 142 is amended by insert-  
9       ing at the end the following new subsection:

10       “(n) RESEARCH PARK FACILITIES.—For purposes of  
11       subsection (a)(16), the term ‘research park facility’ means  
12       a facility (including buildings, land, or other structures)  
13       which is used in connection with research and experimen-  
14       tation (as defined in section 168(i)(11)). For purposes of  
15       the preceding sentence, such term includes facilities which  
16       are directly related and ancillary to a research park facil-  
17       ity (determined without regard to this sentence) if—

18           “(1) such facilities are located on the same site  
19       as the research park facility, and

20           “(2) not more than 25 percent of the net pro-  
21       ceeds of the issue are used to provide such facili-  
22       ties.”.

1       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply with respect to bonds issued on  
3 or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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