Inquiry into impacts on local businesses in Australia from global internet-based competition Submission 14



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Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources P.O. Box 6021 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

By email: iisr.reps@aph.gov.au

re: Inquiry into impacts on local businesses in Australia from global internet-based competition

To the Committee Secretary:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into impacts on local businesses in Australia from global internet-based competition.

The Australian Institute of Performance Sciences has been formed to drive a major increase in effective innovation performance in the bulk of the mainstream of the Australian economic ecosystem, which is made up of large corporate, government and investor community. This will have a significant pull-through effect to stimulate higher levels of innovation and growth across the rest of the economy.

We are formed as a collaboration around breakthrough Australian research that indicates new strategic action capable of stimulating \$100bn additional annual corporate investment focused on innovation, productivity and export growth. This alternative action is set to be achieved without corporate welfare, blank-cheque incentive programs, or regulatory change – and can operate in addition-to, not as a choice-between, other actions.

Overview

In a connected world we cannot shut out digital competition without injuring ourselves. Rather, we must lift our own performance to compete successfully. Australian economic leaders need to collaborate to drive higher-paced economic and public value-creation, which activates Australia's latent knowledge-worker capacity.

Enhancing economic performance to compete successfully in the global economy is the only thing that will maintain the high standards of living that the Australian populace expects to enjoy into the future.

We are delighted to be able to inform the Committee of new knowledge and new perspectives arising from breakthrough Australian research. And, to recommend how this knowledge provides new pathways for action to enhance Australia's future economic wellbeing, and to address the five questions put by the House Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources:



- TOR 1. What roles can the Commonwealth Government and Parliament play in fostering innovation for Australian businesses to respond to these challenges?
- TOR 2. What impacts do the above have on employment, including employment levels and conditions?
- TOR 3. How are small businesses responding to digital change and what is their uptake of new digital business services?
- TOR 4. What are the consequences for small businesses in terms of new competition and access to digital platforms?
- TOR 5. How has/will the existing retail industry cope with changes to the sector's landscape brought about by the existence of global online retail business?

We recommend that the Commonwealth Government engage in its role as a community and economic leader to support the actionable thought leadership recommended here for the benefit of the social and economic futures of Australia.

The AIPS in this submission presents both a new perspective and specific new pathways for action.

Summary of Key AIPS Recommendations (see full list on page 9)

- REC 1. It is recommended that Government take exemplar action as a Foundation Participant supporting the formation of the cross-industry Australian Institute of Performance Sciences collaboration in line with its scale as a major participant within the Australian economy.
- REC 2. It is recommended that Government commission the development of a report "Opportunities for Sustained High Performance Value Creation in the Public and Community Sectors: effectiveness, innovation, stewardship and leadership for a new era".
- REC 3. It is recommended that Government commission the development of a report "Opportunities for Sustained High Performance Value Creation in Commercial and Investment Markets: enhancing Australia's future economic success".
- REC 4. It is recommended that government support the creation of an independent apolitical standing forum for collaborative early stage development of a) options for agile regulatory responses and b) innovation in Public and Community sectors.



Terms of Reference 1:

TOR 1. What roles can the Commonwealth Government and Parliament play in fostering innovation for Australian businesses to respond to these challenges?

AIPS COMMENTARY TO TOR1:

• In a decade of unprecedented global threat and opportunity, Australia's corporate capital investment and profits have flat-lined.

"Business investment, which is critical to economic growth, has been underperforming in recent years... Investing in new productive capacity creates employment, raises future incomes and both creates and embodies new innovation." INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW OF BUSINESS INVESTMENT, HEADS OF TREASURIES, 2017

"Australia is now experiencing its biggest ever five-year fall in mining investment, as a share of GDP. And non-mining business investment has fallen from 12 per cent to 9 per cent of GDP, lower than at any point in the 50 years from 1960 to 2010... What should the Australian government do to encourage investment? There are no silver bullets – only tough choices. And we need to set realistic expectations that these choices will only produce incremental increases in investment... Lower growth may well be the 'new normal', and investment is likely to remain below previous peaks." STAGNATION NATION, GRATTAN INSTITUTE, 2017

"The investment slump is particularly concerning... It implies that capital-intensity in the bulk of the Australian economy will not grow at the historical average, putting future downward pressure on labour productivity. Investment, after all, is what creates the new tools for labour to lift production beyond the previous norm." 5 YEAR PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW, THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION, 2017

 Australia has the 'raw materials' in both human and ideas capacity, and also financial capacity to compete in the global digital economy and knowledge economy; however, it lacks management capacity to bring it to effective value creation outcomes.

"Australia has the relevant skills but lacks the capacity to manage and use these skills and other inputs for innovation...Australia needs to improve the way it turns knowledge inputs into outputs to become a more efficient and successful innovator." Skills AND CAPABILITIES FOR AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISE INNOVATION, AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED ACADEMIES, SAF10, 2017

Australia is ranked #73 globally for effective innovation performance, just behind Pakistan and Zambia. (reported from) GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX, INSEAD, 2016

• Research has identified that this failure in decision-making arises in part from a system-wide lack of effective long-term measures.

"To break free of the tyranny of short-termism, we must start with those who provide capital...If these players focus too much attention on the short term, capitalism as a whole will, too. In theory they shouldn't, because the beneficiaries of these funds have an obvious interest in long-term value creation. But although today's standard practices arose from the desire to have a defensible, measurable approach to portfolio management, they have ended up encouraging shortsightedness. Fund trustees, often advised by investment consultants, assess their money managers' performance relative to benchmark indices and offer only short-term contracts. Those managers' compensation is linked to the amount of assets they manage, which typically rises when short-term performance is strong. Not surprisingly, then, money managers focus on such performance —and pass this emphasis along to the companies in which they invest. And so it goes, on down the line." CAPITALISM FOR THE LONG TERM, DOMINIC BARTON, 2011



"Information Dysfunction: Peter Drucker observed 'what gets measured gets managed'. In a shorttermism world, corporate and investment performance measurement systems have short-term orientations. Longer-term information is seldom demanded or provided." KEITH AMBACHTSHEER, DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PENSION MANAGEMENT, ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, 2017

- Research has identified a broadly applicable, generalised model for the Governance of Value Creation in complex large-scale organisations. Implementation of this model has been shown to be technically feasible and aligned to Australian corporate cultures across all forms of commercial, public, community and investment sector organisations, systems and networks. It explains the practices leading to the sustained out-performance of successful Australian companies, such as the large-scale international success of CSL.
- This Governance of Value Creation knowledge, and the resultant organisational capacity for effective innovation (value-creation), delivers sustained out-performance. This is occurring now in well-run, mature, principled organisations not just the high profile 'unicorn' success stories we most frequently read about. It is possible. It can be achieved. There are Australian examples.

"We need to ensure that we are not battling to meet 21st Century challenges with, at best, 20th Century decision-making and reporting systems" ACCOUNTING FOR SUSTAINABILITY, and the INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATED REPORTING COUNCIL, 2004

"I cannot make wiser leaders, but I can give insight and foresight to make better decisions" DANNY DAVIS, 2018

• Research has identified foregone above-hurdle innovation opportunities in ASX listed companies the vicinity of \$100Bn due to systemic short-termism and resultant 'perverse incentives'.

"The tendency of capital markets to focus on the short-term puts the realisation of immediate market value at the centre of corporate attention. And, as a result... encourage excessive risk taking at the expense of long-term wealth creation, society and sustainability." CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FOR A CHANGING WORLD, CASS BUSINESS SCHOOL, 2016

• Research has identified commonly used practices that inadvertently encapsulate elevated risk, frequently resulting in value-destruction. It has identified enhanced practices that enable larger, more entrepreneurial, more effective value-creating innovation portfolios containing lower overall risk. High performance growth does not require increased risk-taking. It requires enhanced decision making.

"75% of respondents admit that their projects are either always or usually doomed right from the start" GENECA, WHY A MAJORITY OF BUSINESS AND IT TEAMS ANTICIPATE THEIR SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WILL FAIL, 2011

"There are only two phases of a program. The first is 'It's too early to tell.' The second: 'It's too late to stop'." FITZGERALD'S FIRST LAW, A. ERNEST FITZGERALD, US MILITARY FINANCE

 Research has identified the potential for application of Governance of Value Creation in the Public and Community Sectors. This would enable enhanced stewardship, consistently aligned system-wide enhanced decision-making, and the achievement of more effective social outcomes.



 Research has identified sovereign wealth and superannuation asset owners' aspirations for long-term sustainable investment and 'active ownership' can be achieved through Governance of Value Creation approaches. It shows that these have significant influence on market behaviours, and sustained investment performance, through the utilisation of appropriate long-term sustained-performance measures.

"(CEOs should) resist the powerful forces of short-termism afflicting corporate behaviour... and should lay out for shareholders each year a strategic framework for long-term value creation... and explicitly affirm that their boards have reviewed those plans." LARRY FINK, CEO BLACKROCK (\$4.5 TRILLION IN ASSETS), 2017

"Boards have on the whole become less, rather than more, effective. Boards are not effective if they represent good intentions. Boards are not effective if they represent 'investors'. Boards of business enterprises are effective if they represent strong owners, committed to the enterprise. ... The need for an effective board has been stressed by every student of the publicly owned corporation in the last 40 years. To run a business enterprise, especially a large and complex enterprise, management needs considerable power. But power without accountability always becomes flabby or tyrannical and usually both.

...Having better people is not the key; ordinary people will do. Making a board effective requires spelling out its work, setting specific objectives for its contribution.

... I suspect that in the end we shall develop a formal business-audit practice, analogous perhaps to the financial-audit... based on predetermined standards (of) a systematic evaluation of business performance.

...It may not be too fanciful to expect that in ten years a major pension fund will not invest in a company's shares or fixed-income securities unless that company submits itself to (such) a businessaudit." PETER DRUCKER, RECKONING WITH THE PENSION FUND REVOLUTION, 1991.

The Australian Institute of Performance Sciences has been formed as a collaborative initiative between large business, government and investors to further develop and apply Governance of Value Creation knowledge to positively impact the future of the Australian economy. We seek to lift effective value-creation performance across the Australian economy to make it more competitive in a new era of global competition.

Terms of Reference 2:

TOR 2. What impacts do the above have on employment, including employment levels and conditions?

AIPS COMMENTARY TO TOR2:

• The major trend across global advanced economies is the transition to a knowledge economy. Australia's future economic and social success hinges on our ability to create highperformance knowledge-worker roles, and activate enhanced knowledge contribution from all workers. These are roles that are effective in sustained value-creation in competitive knowledge service businesses. This is the future reality of the global economy in which Australia competes, and the only mechanism to <u>secure long-term employment growth</u>.

Australia's Gross expenditure on R&D – rated 15 of 37. High-growth enterprise rate, measured by employment growth – rated 27 of 27. (reported from) PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH SYSTEM, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE AUSTRALIA, 2016

"Personal effectiveness does not suffice in the knowledge-worker age... The challenges and complexities we face today are of a different order of magnitude" STEVEN COVEY, AUTHOR '7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE



"Long-term oriented firms added nearly 12,000 more jobs on average than other firms from 2001-2015. Had all firms created as many jobs as the long-term firms, the US economy would have added more than five million additional jobs over this period. On the basis of this potential job creation, this suggests that the potential value unlocked by companies taking a longer-term approach was worth more than \$1 trillion in forgone US GDP over the past decade." MEASURING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SHORT-TERMISM, MCKINSEY GLOBAL INSTITUTE, 2017

 Higher value-contribution from staff, within higher value-creation activities in new era business operations (Productivity redefined from cost-cutting towards 'more effective creation of new sustained value') is fundamental to Australia being able to afford and deliver sustained long-term wage-growth.

"Wages and salaries in Australia's labour market are exhibiting their weakest growth in the history of the relevant statistics... imposing great harm on affected workers, their families, government budgets, and Australia's macroeconomic performance. (The consequent) reduction in postretirement incomes should be of direct concern to superannuation trustees and administrators... And, Governments will share a significant portion of the resulting damage: they will collect less in taxes on superannuation contributions and investment income, and will pay out more in meanstested Age Pension benefits." THE CONSEQUENCES OF WAGE SUPPRESSION FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM. THE AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE, 2017

Stimulation of new-era growth as a counterforce to the pressure on traditional economy jobs can operate immediately. Australia's high levels of education, and latent staff contribution in all organisations, means large numbers of Australian workers can participate. As new-era roles are created, backfilling will give other workers opportunity to advance. <u>Economy-wide</u> this presents as 'trickle-up economics'.

"Productivity growth is the main long-term driver of growth in Australian incomes and living standards... When productivity leaps in Australia, all incomes eventually rise. Average productivity growth is not good enough. In the period between now and the next of these Reports in 2022, income growth in Australia is likely to be about half of historical levels." 5 YEAR PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW, THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION, 2017

All organisations want to get the greatest value 'return' from their investment in staff. And
research shows, the more staff contribute value to collaborative purpose, the greater their
motivation, job satisfaction and personal fulfilment. Governance of Value Creation
demonstrates high performance value-creation in large organisations, and explains how this
staff engagement can be achieved.

"The person who figures out how to harness the collective genius of the people in his or her organization is going to blow the competition away." BUILDING LEARNING ORGANIZATIONS, PETER SENGE, 1994

• U.S. 'unicorn' businesses have been exposed for frequently toxic work practices. Cool, but toxic. These are not the working conditions that should be adopted by Australian businesses. Culturally appropriate high-performance Australian examples exist and should be recognised.

Sustained job growth and wage growth is vital for maintaining Australia's economic and social well-being. Enhanced value-creation capacity in the mainstream economy (across corporate, public and community sectors) provides the greatest possible stimulus to the creation of 'good' and sustainable knowledge economy jobs.



Terms of Reference 3 and 4:

- TOR 3. How are small businesses responding to digital change and what is their uptake of new digital business services?
- TOR 4. What are the consequences for small businesses in terms of new competition and access to digital platforms?

AIPS COMMENTARY TO TOR3 AND TOR4:

- All businesses must continually adapt to survive in the face of local competition, megaentrants to markets, product changes, style preferences, customer service expectation and technology. 'Uptake of new digital business services' does not indicate sustained success if businesses are merely consumers of digital platforms. The sustainability questions are "Do businesses leverage technology and innovation to become more competitively successful?", and "Are they effective high-performance innovators in a world of continual change?".
- The biggest systemic barrier impacting Australia's innovative SME, research and science sector (the Australian 'ideas economy') is not a lack of motivation, capital, or skill but a lack of willing customers. Innovators may frequently be inexpert at sales; but the greater problem is that they are selling to inexpert purchasers.

"You can present the best idea for the most important survival issue, all pre-worked on a silver platter. The exec 'gets it'. Understands how vital and practical it is... a no-brainer. But then this look comes into their eyes that says 'I'm responsible for this, it's not someone else's, but... I have no idea how to make this happen in my organisation. It's not worth my career to try to introduce it." SERIAL ENTREPRENUER

• Larger Australian organisations, in the bulk of the economy, lack the internal practices to engage new ideas to effectively create value. As a result, it can be said that 'the greatest barrier to innovation is career risk'. Enhancing mainstream Australian organisations' capacity to adapt to new knowledge is key to unlocking our economic future.

"It is safer to fail within expectation than to risk succeeding outside of them" MATTHEW KIERNAN

- Delegation of meaningful and measurable value-creation targets through mid-level executives would transform Australia's idea economy from a constrained push-model to an agile pull-model. "I'm behind target... I wonder who has some new ideas I could use?".
- An enhanced capacity to engage innovative ideas, to achieve more effective social outcomes across the Public and Community sectors, would act as both a stimulus to the Australian SME and ideas economy, and also provide better social outcomes from public expenditure.
- Recent history shows the creation of a globally significant Mining Services Sector in Australia
 as a result of servicing the investment needs of the Mining boom. This sector initially serviced
 local companies and then expanded to become a significant exporter of globally competitive
 services.

"Better translation of research into commercial outcomes... will help drive innovation in Australia, grow successful Australian businesses and research capacity, and boost productivity and exports." RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT FOR AUSTRALIA, ATSE, 2015.



• Innovative companies, researchers and scientists, who are creating value in collaborative partnership with large-scale clients are more likely to find sustainable success. As they grow they are better placed to access growth capital. In fact, they are less likely to need capital in the first place.

Global technology opportunity is vital for small businesses and Australia's economic future. Enhanced value-creation capacity in the mainstream economy (across corporate, public and community sectors) provides the greatest possible stimulus to the Australian SME sector, the ideas economy and the services economy.

Terms of Reference 5:

TOR 5. How has/will the existing retail industry cope with changes to the sector's landscape brought about by the existence of global online retail business?

AIPS COMMENTARY TO TOR5:

• We are moving inexorably towards a commodity world of universal online access, internet design libraries, digital printing and digital manufacture. In this future, competitive retail businesses are indistinguishable from knowledge-economy services businesses. To survive they must differentiate through knowledge, convenience, personal engagement, customisation and other forms of innovative services value-add.

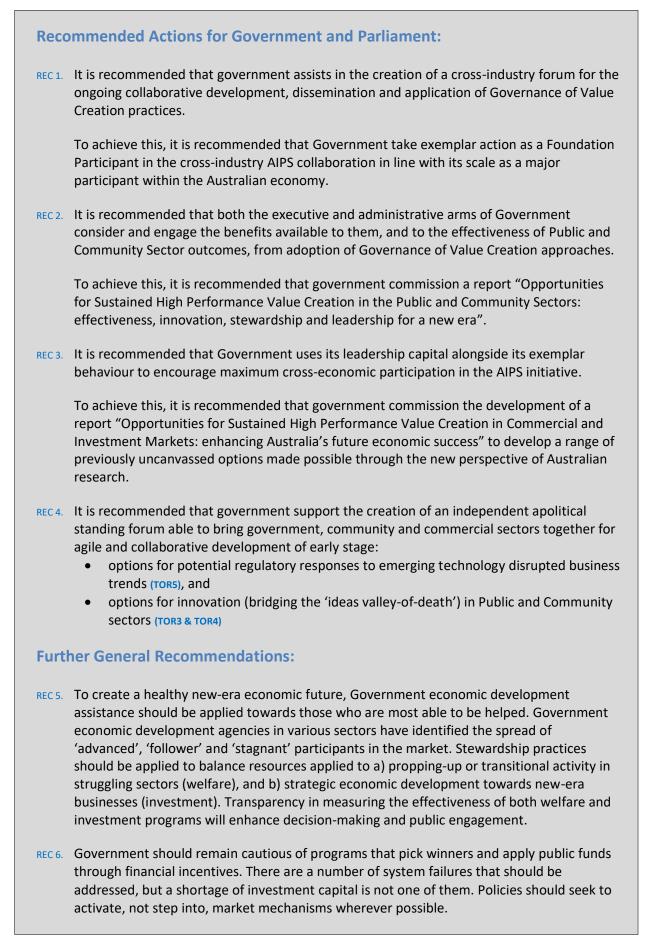
"New is not risk. Risk is thinking things will remain as they are. We need to re-imagine value when the product you sell, and the product you make, has zero value. Where is your value in data? Where is your value in virtual?" DANNY DAVIS, "VALUE IN VIRTUAL", KEYNOTE SPEECH TO AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING CONFERENCE., 2015

- The ~10% of Australian businesses in the retail sector are a bellwether for the whole economy. To remain viable, they need to provide digitally-connected innovative services that compete successfully with global online competition. These businesses will challenge and stretch Australia's existing suite of regulations and regulators.
- Australian regulation is going to need to be increasingly agile within a global online business environment. Regulation will need to strike a balance, ensuring Australian business have a level playing field with internationally based competition, and ensuring Australian consumers are given appropriate protections. The speed, and complexity of technology enabled change will challenge existing regulatory development practices

"Further major innovation-driven change is coming in financial services. Joint, concerted action is needed to enable the system to reap the benefits of innovation. Managing systemic risks introduced by this wave of innovation poses challenges." BALANCING FINANCIAL STABILITY, INNOVATION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, 2017

Enhanced capacity for responsive Australian regulation will have a significant influence on the performance of retail, and more broadly, the Australian SME sector.







Breakthrough Australian Research.

This new knowledge arises from breakthrough Australian Doctoral research that has demonstrated the causal hallmarks of sustained high-performance value creation in large-scale organisations, systems and networks. This research engaged directors at nine of the ASX10 (seven at Chair), amongst 60 corporate, large-scale investor, government and academic leaders.

The Australian Institute of Performance Sciences.

The Australian Institute of Performance Sciences ("AIPS") is a collaborative vehicle to bring this new knowledge to broad economic impact. The Institute's development has engaged this same research cohort, along with their peers at relevant Agencies (RBA, PC, ASIC, APRA, ISA et al), Federal and State Departments and additional corporate and investment leaders.

The AIPS expects to stimulate \$100bn in additional annual corporate investment focused on innovation, productivity and export growth. It requires no corporate welfare, no blank-cheque programs, no new policy, and no legislative change. New knowledge and collaborative action will influence economy-wide highly-effective value creation.

As such, the Australian Institute of Performance Sciences presents as an alternative approach to economic development, enterprise productivity, public sector reform and the competitive transformation of the Australian economy.

Pathway to Full Operation

We recommend the "Enhancing Australia's Economic Performance program" to the Committee. This series of five specialist roundtables to be held at Parliament; 'Enhancing Investor Performance', 'Enhancing Corporate Performance', 'Enhancing Economic Performance', 'Enhancing Public Performance', and 'Evidence Based Performance', builds towards a cross-sector launch conference to be held at Parliament House, later in the year.

Leadership endorsement of the value of the proposed outcomes, and the value of participation in collaborative action, is vital to the success of this program. With no-one in corporate or public Australia currently accountable for increasing value-creation effectiveness, there is still the risk that this could be dismissed as "someone else's problem" without adequate leadership focus.

We call on the Committee to exercise its influencing leadership capacity to assist this unique, crossindustry, cross-sector, collaborative action come to fruition. Specifically, we request assistance in bringing the various arms of executive and administrative government together in an appropriate form to subscribe to, and participate in, this broad collaboration. The Committee's broader leadership in support of the Institute and development of an appropriate ongoing collaborative relationship would also be most welcome.

Focus of AIPS

Building towards Australia's optimised future-value performance, the AIPS can be thought of somewhere between the collaborative development of Accounting Standards and the Australian Institute of Sport; it facilitates the ongoing collaborative development of leading-edge practices... and delivers coaching for high-performance use by elite practitioners.

There is precedent for the sustainable, impactful, influencing economic role that the AIPS seeks to achieve in standardised treatment of future prospects. This can be seen in the success of the



industry based Joint Ore Resources Council (JORC) in their 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves', and its long-standing collaborative relationship with ASIC and the ASX.

The AIPS aims to deliver major increases in effective innovation performance in the top-500, equivalent to 65% of GDP, made up of large corporates, government jurisdictions and large-scale investors. It is a for-industry-by-industry organisation, to be funded by industry subscription commensurate with scale, across the top 500 participants in the Australian economy. It is independent, not-for-profit, led by an independent expert board. It is not a lobbyist for special interests. It promotes enhanced collaborative innovation practice for evidence based decision-making across all sectors of the economy.

We recommend further reading on this topic through the Institute's white-paper series:

- Australian Prosperity (Jobs and Wage Growth)
- Sustained Value Creation (Organisational Performance)
- Enhanced Stewardship (Public and Social Performance)
- The Executive Epidemic (Unsustainable Overload)
- Active Value (Superannuation Performance)

and the material outlining the operation of the Enhancing Australia's Economic Performance program building to the full operational launch of the Institute.

We are happy to make further presentations to the Committee, its members, and such other executive and administrative government forums as may be appropriate.

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