Naren Manoj 3931 Crown Ridge Court Houston, TX 77059

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President Barack Obama The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

As I watched your farewell address last night, I was reminded of another talk of yours. I attended the White House Science Fair in 2015, and I remember feeling inspired by your commitment to STEM fields and education in the US. At the time, I was a high school senior, strongly considering a major in computer science. And, today, I know I made the right choice.

It appears to me that there is no better time than now to pursue a career in technology. As you know, we are learning so much about computing at an ever-increasing rate. This creates a whole new space for exciting innovations and ways to leverage our existing resources more efficiently. The rapid proliferation of the internet allows nearly everyone in the US to access a world-class education through resources such as MIT's OpenCourseWare, Khan Academy, Coursera, edx, and more. Recent developments in artificial intelligence techniques enable great improvements in all aspects of healthcare. Computer vision researchers working on self-driving cars are working towards the goal of making our roads safer. And the list goes on. In a few short years, I guarantee we will be doing things we couldn't do in our wildest dreams today. And to be at the cutting edge of this work is thrilling.

I speak not only for myself, but for my peers. Within the next few years, we will be joining the software engineering workforce. While we will be working for a diverse set of companies, each with a different mission, I assure you that one goal remains common - the improvement of the human condition. Along the way, we will invariably face many challenges. I promise you that we will not be deterred by these minor roadblocks.

I really appreciate the effort that you and your staff have put in to STEM education and science and technology policy. Because of your work, we have the privilege to tackle some really tough problems for the rest of our lives. The progress made so far wouldn't have been possible without you all, and I can't thank you enough.

Your optimism is contagious, and I am really excited for the problems we're going to solve soon.

Sincerely,

Naren Manoj