

January 16, 2007

Chairman Robert C Byrd
U.S. Capitol
S-128
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Thad Cochran
U.S. Capitol
S-112
Washington, DC 20510-2402

Chairman David Obey
H-218
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4907

Ranking Member Jerry Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-05

Dear Chairman Byrd, Chairman Obey, Ranking Member Cochran and Ranking Member Lewis,

As leaders of some of the leading research institutions in the country, we are acutely aware of the tangible benefits to the nation of the significant federal investments in peer-reviewed scientific research. We request that as you are crafting the long-term continuing resolution, you will include relief for critical science programs like the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy Office of Science.

Federal funding for university research goes to educational institutions of all kinds across the country, and it comes from many sources. From medicine to energy, from computer science to structural engineering, and from astronomy to geology and biology, this federally-funded university research has helped to create new technologies, new products and new industries, as well as preserve our country's leadership in the global economy, international security, and the exploration of our outer space. Our universities have used federally-supported research to pioneer new noninvasive treatments for cancer, enhance our detection capabilities for dirty bombs, and develop potential sources of cleaner, renewable energy.

Last year, Congress approved increases in high priority science programs, in particular the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Both the House and Senate appropriations committees reported FY07 spending bills that included an increase of more than \$400 million for NSF and \$500 million for the Department of Energy's Office of Science as requested by the Administration. Since there is broad support amongst both branches, chambers and political parties and these programs are addressing important national needs, we hope they can retain these increases for Fiscal Year 2007.

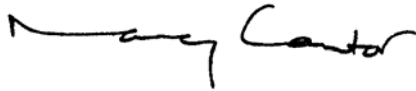
While we are sympathetic to the challenges of an austere budget climate, small investments in science yield immeasurable results. Thank you for your attention to our request and please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions on the benefits of federal investment in scientific research.



President David J. Skorton
Cornell University



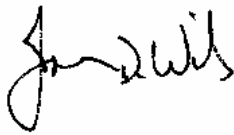
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Indiana University



Chancellor Nancy Cantor
Syracuse University



President Lee T. Todd Jr.
University of Kentucky



Chancellor John D. Wiley
University of Wisconsin-Madison



President Steven B. Sample
University of Southern California



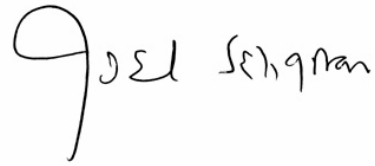
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University of Chicago



President John B. Simpson
University at Buffalo
The State University of New York



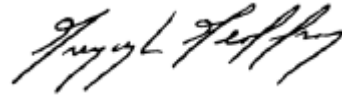
President James B. Milliken
University of Nebraska



President Joel Seligman
University of Rochester



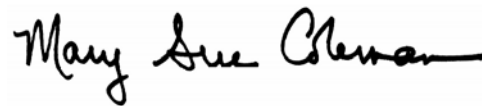
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Iowa State University



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Pennsylvania State University



President Mary Sue Coleman
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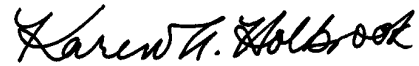
Chancellor James L. Oblinger
North Carolina State University



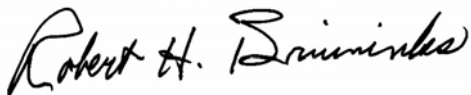
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President Robert Bruininks
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Dr. David I. Hirsh, PhD
Executive Vice President for Research
Columbia University

CC: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, House Majority Leader Hoyer and House Minority Leader Boehner.