

March 14, 2006

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

As members of The Science Coalition, an alliance of more than 60 of the nation's leading research universities, we are writing to commend you on your efforts to spur new ideas and keep America competitive by significantly increasing funding for physical science and engineering research. Investments in basic science research, most of which is carried out by America's universities, are a crucial step in continuing America's status as a leader in innovation.

Through the American Competitiveness Initiative proposed in your State of the Union address, the substantial increases proposed for the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science will provide a critical down payment on your commitment to double the federal government's investment in science. Increases in these and other important federal research and education programs will lead to the creation of our country's next generation of innovators by giving our students the best education, our workforce the best training, and industry and the economy the best new ideas.

The Science Coalition looks forward to working with Congress to enact these funding increases, as well as expand funding across all agencies for basic science research and education. In order for America to be truly competitive, a healthy budget across all disciplines is critical to meet the many challenges in securing America's health, the economy, and homeland security.

Thank you again for your vision and leadership on this important issue. The new ideas that will create the industries and jobs of the future will come from investments our nation makes in research today.

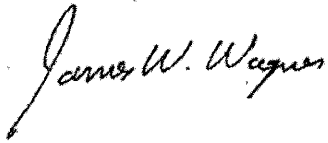
Sincerely,



E. Gordon Gee  
Chancellor, Vanderbilt University



Shirley Strum Kenny  
President, Stony Brook University



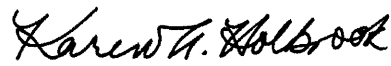
James W. Wagner  
President, Emory University



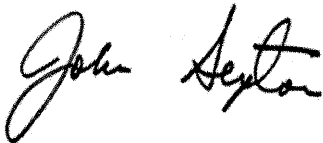
Glen Mroz  
President, Michigan Technological University



Michael M. Crow  
President, Arizona State University



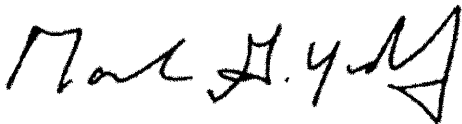
Karen A. Holbrook  
President, The Ohio State University



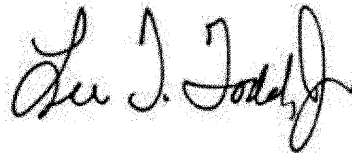
John Sexton  
President, New York University



Charles W. Steger  
President, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and  
State University



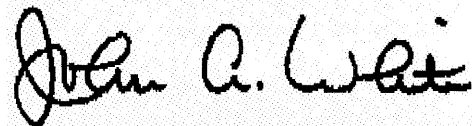
Mark G. Yudof  
Chancellor, University of Texas System



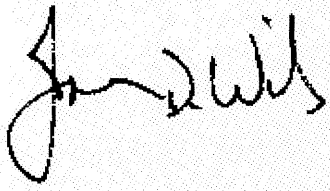
Lee T. Todd, Jr.  
President, University of Kentucky



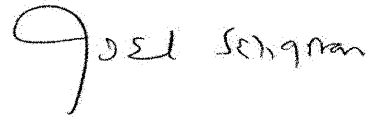
Richard H. Brodhead  
President, Duke University



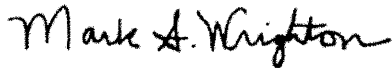
John A. White  
Chancellor, University of Arkansas



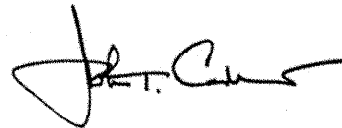
John D. Wiley  
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison



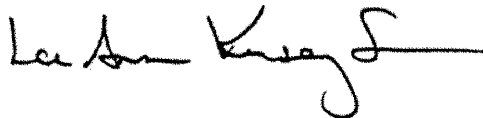
Joel Seligman  
President, University of Rochester



Mark S. Wrighton  
Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis



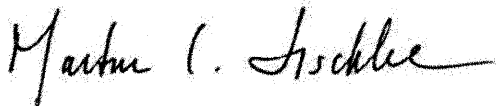
John T. Casteen III  
President, University of Virginia



Lou Anna Simon  
President, Michigan State University



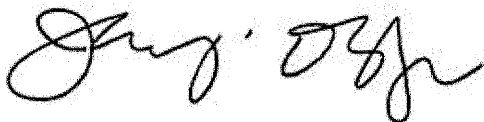
Amy Gutmann  
President, University of Pennsylvania



Martin C. Jischke  
President, Purdue University



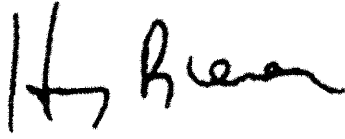
Richard Herman  
Chancellor, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign



James L. Oblinger  
Chancellor, North Carolina State University



Robert C. Dynes  
President, University of California



Henry S. Bienen  
President, Northwestern University



Steven B. Sample  
President, University of Southern California



Wayne Clough  
President, Georgia Institute of Technology



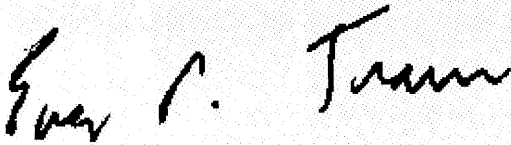
Shirley Ann Jackson  
President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



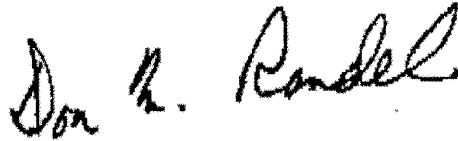
John L. Hennessy  
President, Stanford University



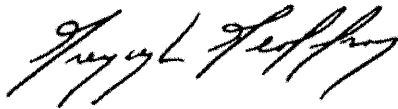
Graham B. Spanier  
President, Pennsylvania State University



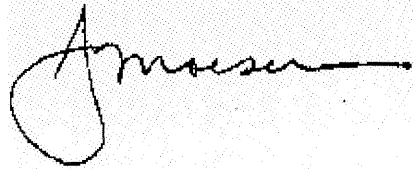
Eugene P. Trani  
President, Virginia Commonwealth University



Don M. Randel  
President, University of Chicago



Gregory L. Geoffroy  
President, Iowa State University



James Moeser  
Chancellor, University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill