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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Science Coalition Comments on Agreement to End Shutdown and Lift Debt Limit

Tim Leshan, 2013 president of The Science Coalition, made the following statement:

The Science Coalition is pleased that Congress has acted in a bipartisan manner to end the government shutdown and lift the nation's borrowing limit. This allows people to get back to work and provides important economic stability in the near term. However, we are concerned about the temporary nature of the agreement and that it does not address fundamental budget issues including sequestration.

We urge Congress to use the next three months to develop a workable, long-term budget framework that deals with the nation's debt in a way that allows smart investments in such things as scientific research and education. As long as sequestration remains in effect, our economic recovery remains in jeopardy.

Basic scientific research – funded by the federal government and conducted in partnership with universities and national labs across the country – drives innovation, produces economic growth, contributes to workforce development and keeps our country competitive. Already a small portion of the overall federal budget, funding for scientific research will be reduced by nearly [\\$95 billion](#) through sequestration over the next nine years. These cuts are in addition to the tight caps on discretionary spending already put in place by the Budget Control Act of 2011. Research requires sustained funding over many years to yield results. The disinvestment in science that is occurring as a result of the Budget Control Act and sequestration will be felt for decades to come.

The Science Coalition has consistently expressed deep concern about the negative consequences of sequestration and called on Congress to end it. It is our strong hope that the nation's political leaders will use the time provided by this agreement to produce a path forward that prioritizes America's ability to make smart investments.

For more information on scientific research and sequestration, visit www.ScienceWorksForUS.org.

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The Science Coalition is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of the nation's leading public and private research universities. It is dedicated to sustaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America's global competitiveness. Learn more at www.sciencecoalition.org.