



October 19, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Subcommittee Energy and Water  
Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Simpson and Ranking Members Feinstein and Kaptur:

On behalf of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I thank you and your Congressional colleagues for passing the September short-term continuing resolution, providing a path forward for fiscal year 2017 appropriations action before the end of this year. We urge Congress to complete the FY 2017 appropriations process this fall and to send the President bipartisan funding legislation by the end of the calendar year.

As the House and Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittees work to reconcile your positions on funding for FY 2017, I strongly encourage you to make research and higher education programs a top priority. These investments continue to demonstrate a significant return, growing our economy and improving the health and well-being of our society. Below, I reiterate APLU's funding requests for FY 2017 in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill and urge that you prioritize these important programs in the final package.

The Department of Energy's Office of Science is our country's largest supporter of foundational research in the physical sciences, helping to advance the fundamental science knowledge base and train future scientists. We appreciate that the House and Senate bills propose a \$50 million increase to \$5.4 billion for the Office of Science. However, APLU continues to **encourage you to fund the Office of Science at \$5.672 billion** for FY 2017. As other countries rapidly increase their investments in science and research, outpacing the U.S. in their growth trajectories, we must provide a strong level of support for the Office of Science to avert an innovation deficit and ensure the U.S remains the world innovation leader. These investments

fuel scientific and technological innovation that serves as the foundation of economic growth and national security..

Further, APLU **urges you to fund the Advanced Research Project Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) at \$350 million** to help promote innovative, cross-disciplinary energy research. ARPA-E leverages talent in all sectors—from private industry, to universities, to government labs—to focus on creative, high-risk/high-reward energy research and the rapid development of transformational clean energy technologies. Although our strong recommendation for ARPA-E funding is for a more robust increase, we prefer the Senate bill’s proposal of \$325 million over the level in the House bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and recommendations. Though there are some decisions made in the FY 2017 appropriations bills thus far that we oppose, we strongly believe that the FY 2017 funding process should be completed this year. We urge the 114th Congress to send the President bipartisan appropriations legislation that prioritizes important investments in higher education and research before the end of the year. Please consider APLU a resource as you work to finalize FY 2017 appropriations.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson  
President  
APLU

cc: Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader Harry Reid  
Speaker Paul Ryan  
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran  
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers  
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski  
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies