



October 24, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Rogers:

As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, I write to thank you for your ongoing work on the FY2020 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bill and urge support for APLU's priorities as you reconcile differences between House and Senate measures.

I further note how crucial it is for Congress to complete the appropriations process. Additional continuing resolutions will fail to capitalize on Congress' meaningful work in addressing budget caps while ceding the opportunity to make important increases to key investments in scientific research and strategic international collaborations. Understanding that the House marked up their bills under a higher total funding level than what was passed through the bipartisan budget agreement in July, APLU respectfully urges that the strongest possible funding levels for important research programs prevail in the final bill.

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. Annually, APLU's 197 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.1 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$42.4 billion in university-based research.

In addition to expressing views on overall funding requests as detailed below, APLU is also greatly concerned with changes that shift priorities from bill language to committee report as done in the House measure. We respectfully disagree with this change which sends a concerning

message about the committee's prioritization of these programs. APLU urges Congress to include both the partnerships and Feed the Future Innovations Labs language in the final bill text as has been the practice in recent years and as the Senate has done in its FY20 measure.

We appreciate the House and Senate's continued support of **\$55 million for the Feed the Future Innovation Labs** but note that this represents flat funding from FY2019. The need for increased support for this program is significant – our nation's research universities have unparalleled expertise to tackle some of the world's most challenging agriculture problems and could further contribute to food security around the world. The current 25 Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Labs involve more than 60 U.S. universities throughout the nation. They solve critical agricultural problems that impact food security and poverty through research conducted collaboratively between U.S. and developing country students and scientists. The program also promotes a path to self-reliance and resilience by strengthening the capacity of developing country research institutions and scientists.

APLU appreciates both the House and the Senate's levels of **\$35 million for partnerships between higher education institutions in the United States and developing countries** focused on building the institutional capacity of higher education in developing countries. The impacts of higher education institutions are significant and beneficial in developing nations through the ability of institutions to educate, research, and engage communities in the dissemination of knowledge. Through higher education partnerships, we are not only building lasting capacity in developing countries, but also strengthening critical ties to developing countries that serve crucial foreign policy objectives.

Additionally, we urge the inclusion of the Senate's bill language that would require the USAID Administrator to consult with the Committee on Appropriations on the proposed use of funds for partnerships, the House's report language requesting that at least \$15 million be utilized for new partnerships, and both the House and Senate's report language that urges partnerships to be sufficient in length and sufficiently resourced to make a transformational impact on colleges and universities in developing nations.

Lastly, APLU is concerned with the House Committee's report language that would prioritize partnership educational opportunities specifically in the Western Hemisphere. Our members partner with universities all over the world including the Western Hemisphere.

Thank you for your consideration of APLU's requests as you work to reconcile differences and advance a final FY2020 appropriations measure.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson  
President, APLU

cc:

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby

House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey

Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Kay Granger

Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs