December 16, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader  Minority Leader
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker  Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As Congress wraps up its work for the year and looks to its 2022 agenda, I urge you to make completion of Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations a top priority.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) appreciates Congress was able to reach agreement on a continuing resolution (CR) that ensured the federal government’s partnership with public research universities continued without the harmful impacts of a shutdown. Unfortunately though, a CR does not make the decisions necessary to prioritize investments that grow our economy, advance social mobility, and enhance our global competitiveness. Additionally, CRs lead to a substantially disruptive funding environment for federal agencies, fostering uncertainty and inefficiencies, and stunting the grant process for scientific research and programs that advance student success.

Public research universities undertake a large share of the federal government’s basic research, and with community colleges and regional public institutions, educate the vast majority of students in postsecondary education. From biomedical research that yields cures to deadly diseases to advanced computing innovations that help address vexing societal challenges to developing new clean energy solutions, public research universities play a central role in saving lives, tackling societal problems, and laying the foundation for long-term economic growth and broadly shared prosperity. Further, our education mission is critical to advance a society that provides ladders of opportunity for all, including students of color, low-income students, and students who are the first in their families to attend college. Making the needed progress in all of these areas though is dependent on our nation making the necessary investments, which is not accomplished by extending last year’s funding.

On behalf of APLU, I urge Congress to work together to complete the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations process to realize many of the critical higher education and research investments contained in the appropriations bills released to date. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities