



November 13, 2015

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Culberson and Ranking Members Mikulski and Fattah:

On behalf of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I thank you and your Congressional colleagues for passing the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, providing a path forward for FY2016 federal appropriations. As the House and Senate Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittees work to reconcile your positions on funding for FY2016, I urge 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 wellbeing of our society. Below, I reiterate APLU's funding requests for FY2016 in the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill and urge that you prioritize these important programs within your increased allocation. Also, highlighted below are concerns about various proposals included in the funding bills thus far.

APLU strongly encourages you to appropriate at least \$7.724 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY2016, a 5.2 percent increase over FY2015. The NSF funds merit-based research across disciplines and supports science, math and engineering education throughout the country. NSF-supported research in all fields of science and engineering has yielded breakthroughs which have led to novel technologies, stimulated new industries, enhanced human health and improved national security. We urge that the final CJS FY2016 bill allow NSF the maximum flexibility to allocate resources among all the science and engineering directorates in the Research and Related Activities account.

The mission and work of NASA plays an essential part of meeting the growing challenges to fully understand our planet and to answer fundamental questions regarding the universe. APLU strongly requests you to appropriate \$5.49 billion for the NASA Science Mission Directorate in

FY2016, a 4.7 percent increase over FY2015. Additionally, we request that the Space Technology account be funded at \$725 million, a significant increase of 21.6 percent over FY2015. We ask for an FY2016 appropriation of \$651 million for the Aeronautics Research Directorate and \$40 million for the Space Grant Program, the same level of funding for both accounts as in FY2015.

Further, APLU strongly encourages you to fund the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at \$485 million, representing an increase of 12 percent over FY2015. NOAA funds crucial oceanic and atmospheric research that provides our decision makers with essential data and services which enhance the nation's economy, security, and environment. APLU also urges you to fund NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program at \$80 million, an increase of \$11.5 million over FY2015. This program works with coastal communities to promote research, education, training and extension projects to help foster science-based decision about the use and conservation of our aquatic resources.

Finally, APLU strongly encourages you to fund the Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology at \$141 million, an \$11 million increase over FY2015. The MEP acts as a catalyst for strengthening American manufacturing by helping transform the sector into a more efficient and powerful engine of innovation.

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 key science agencies funded in the CJS bill to avert an innovation deficit and ensure the U.S remains the world innovation leader. This will help us build a better America through science and technological advances which are the foundation of our nation's economic growth and aid in our national defense.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Please consider APLU a resource as you continue your work on the final funding bill for FY2016.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson
President
APLU

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science,
and Related Agencies
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science,
and Related Agencies