

November 13, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Durbin and Visclosky:

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 Defense Appropriations Subcommittees work to reconcile your positions on funding for FY2016, I urge you to make research and higher education programs a 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 Defense Appropriations bill and urge that you prioritize these highlighted programs within your increased allocation.

It is critical for U.S. national security that our military stay on the leading edge of technology and scientific capabilities. We cannot pull back on our defense science and research efforts if we intend to stay ahead in our defense capabilities. This is why APLU recommends funding of \$12.822 billion in FY2016 for the Department of Defense (DoD) Science and Technology (S&T) account, covering 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 research and development, as provided in the Senate Defense Subcommittee bill.

Further, we strongly urge you to fund DoD basic research (6.1) at \$2.43 billion in FY2016, an increase of 6.6 percent over FY2015. These recommended funding levels set a path for achieving the "20/20 Principle" which sets out that investments in Defense S&T should constitute 20 percent of the total Defense Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget, and that investments in 6.1 basic research should comprise 20 percent of the total Defense S&T budget. This principle is based on expert recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences.

Finally, we strongly encourage you to fund the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) at \$2.973 billion, a two percent increase over FY2015 levels. DARPA has played an important role in funding high-risk, high- reward research which has led to many significant defense technologies, some of which have also evolved into remarkable civilian applications, such as GPS.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and recommendations. Please consider APLU a resource as you continue your work on FY2016 appropriations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Peter McPherson
President
APLU

cc: 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 Defense
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense