



November 21, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

On behalf of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I urge you to find a bipartisan path for passage of the remaining Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations bills before the current continuing resolution (CR) expires on December 7. Many of these bills contain funding for agencies and programs that support scientific research and crucial training of our science and research workforce across all fields, which are key to our country's global innovation prominence. It is important that Congress act expeditiously to complete consideration of these bills with strong appropriation levels for these important national investments.

APLU and our member universities are very grateful for the timely funding this year of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense Science and Technology, Department of Energy Office of Science, and Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy, among others.

However, critical agencies still await FY2019 funding, including the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the National Endowment for Humanities, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Agency for International Development. Swift completion of the FY2019 Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Interior-Environment, and State-Foreign Operations appropriations bills would ensure minimal disruption to the research and educational activities of these and other agencies. Action on these bills thus far in the House and Senate includes helpful increases for these important agencies. However, any further delay beyond December 7 would be counterproductive to our nation's goal of maintaining our international eminence in scientific discoveries.

Robust, predictable funding for science, research and education is essential to enable the U.S. to remain at the cutting edge of scientific breakthroughs that further innovation, our global competitiveness, and our economy. We urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to complete and pass these remaining appropriations bills that make significant investments our nation's future.

If APLU can provide any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jennifer Poulakidas (jpoulakidas@aplu.org, 202.478.6053).

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson
President
APLU

CC:

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy
House Appropriations Committee Chair Rodney Frelinghuysen
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture Chair John Hoeven
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture Ranking Member Jeff Merkley
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture Chair Robert Aderholt
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture Ranking Member Sanford Bishop
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science Chair Jerry Moran
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science Chair John Culberson
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science Ranking Member José Serrano
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior-Environment Chair Lisa Murkowski
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior-Environment Ranking Member Tom Udall
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior-Environment Chair Ken Calvert
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior-Environment Ranking Member Betty McCollum
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations Chair Lindsey Graham
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations Ranking Member Patrick Leahy
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations Chair Hal Rogers
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations Ranking Member Nita Lowey