

November 13, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Simpson and Ranking Members Feinstein and Kaptur:

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 Energy and Water 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 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill and urge that you prioritize these important programs within your increased allocation.

The Department of Energy's Office of Science is our country's largest supporter of foundational research in the physical sciences, helping to advance the fundamental science knowledge base and train future scientists. APLU strongly encourages you to fund the Office of Science at \$5.34 billion for FY2016, an increase of 5.3 percent over FY2015 levels. 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 office of Science to avert an innovation deficit and ensure the U.S remains the world innovation leader. This will help us build a better America via science and technological advances which are the foundation of our nation's economic growth and aid in our national defense.

Further, APLU urges you to fund the Advanced Research Project Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) at \$325 million to help promote innovative, cross-disciplinary energy research. ARPA-E leverages talent in all sectors—from private industry, to universities, to government labs—to

focus on creative, high-risk/high-reward energy research and the rapid development of transformational clean energy technologies.

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, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent than the last name "McPherson".

Peter McPherson
President
APLU

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran
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 Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies