



September 2, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
254 Russel Senate Office Building
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
United State House of Representatives
23217 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
United State House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

As your committees work on legislation to address the fiscal year 2022 budget resolution Congress recently passed, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) writes in support of a significant investment in scientific research and research infrastructure. Both are strong components of President Biden's American Jobs Plan.

As you know, APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. Annually, APLU's 201 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.2 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$46.8 billion in university-based research.

Investments in science have proven their worth time and time again. Laboratory construction projects have both short- and long-term economic benefits from initial construction jobs to long-term technical and research jobs. U.S. universities spend an estimated \$14 billion annually of direct cost research dollars¹ on goods and services throughout the country, directly fueling local economies.

Strong federal investments in research infrastructure and instrumentation grant programs now will pave the way for America to continue to lead the world in higher education and innovation. These investments are key to the development of a globally-competitive U.S. workforce.

¹ [IRISresearchspendingfactsheet4-20_final.pdf \(umich.edu\)](https://www.aplu.org/researchspendingfactsheet4-20_final.pdf)

President Biden's proposal featured an investment of \$40 billion to upgrade research infrastructure in laboratories across the country, including brick-and-mortar facilities and computing capabilities and networks. Research infrastructure investment of at least this magnitude is badly needed. Similarly, the Administration's plan outlined worthwhile investments to support infrastructure across a broad spectrum of institutions, including Minority Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

As I just wrote² to you a few weeks ago, we are grateful for your leadership in supporting the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260), the NSF for the Future Act (H.R. 2225) and the DOE Science for the Future Act (H.R. 3593) and other legislation to make important investments in use-inspired research and technology development. We hope the reconciliation process will allow for a significant investment in both research programs and research infrastructure.

It is imperative that Congress invest in scientific infrastructure funding as we look to stimulate the economy nationally and locally, create good paying jobs, and set our nation on a path towards sustained growth. While understanding your committees do not have jurisdiction over all science agencies, APLU continues to support targeted research infrastructure funding to already established and well-vetted programs at agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology³.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to working with you as Congress advances legislation per the budget resolution.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson
President

² <https://www.aplu.org/members/councils/governmental-affairs/CGA-library/aplu-policy-priorities-for-us-competitiveness-package/file>

³ <https://www.aplu.org/members/councils/governmental-affairs/CGA-library/aplu-recovery-and-infrastructure-priorities-advocacy-document/file>