



December 8, 2008

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-310 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-310 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Mollohan and Frelinghuysen:

On behalf of NASULGC, A Public University Association, which represents 216 public research universities, land-grant institutions and state university systems, I write to respectfully request your strong support in the FY2009 appropriations conference negotiations for agencies and programs of great importance not only to public universities but to the nation. Outlined below are our specific requests for programs in your bill.

As you enter into discussions of the FY2009 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, and as the country struggles with momentous economic challenges, please be mindful that the innovations resulting from federally supported basic science research are key to our nation's long-term global economic growth and competitiveness.

NASULGC strongly urges that you retain the \$6.85 billion funding level for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which has the support of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Administration. The important innovations that result from fundamental research supported by NSF are crucial building blocks to new technologies, job creation, and continued industrial competitiveness that serve as the foundation of a strong and stable economy.

NASULGC requests a funding level of \$4.6 billion for the Science Mission Directorate and the House-requested level of \$515 million for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) agency. Without at least inflationary increases for its Science program, NASA cannot continue to meet the growing challenges to fully understand relevant changes to our planet and answer fundamental questions regarding the universe through space exploration. Increased funding will further enhance NASA's ability to meet the challenges of Earth observation and replace an aging suite of monitoring satellites and instrumentation. Aeronautics research is also critical to develop a new generation of technologies in aviation.

For the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NASULGC requests a funding level of \$4.5 billion, including a funding level of at least \$400 million for the Ocean and Atmospheric Research account and a level of at least \$60 million for the Sea Grant program. NASULGC supports increased emphasis on external competitive research programs at NOAA. In addition to first-rate research, these programs provide education and training of students, our next generation of researchers, who will be crucial as we strive to address climate change.

Further, we ask that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) be funded at the House committee level of at least \$122 million. MEP helps universities and businesses to create innovative technologies that will have an impact on innovation and long-term competition. Additionally, NASULGC supports the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) at NIST. The program works with institutions of higher education to support and promote technically challenging research and innovation in transformative technology areas. We ask that you provide TIP with \$65 million in FY2009, as included in the House and Senate committee marks.

I look forward to working with you through the remainder of the appropriations process to ensure that the nation maintains its ability to compete and innovate at a global level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter McPherson".

Peter McPherson  
President