April 13, 2010

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Conrad and Spratt and Ranking Members Gregg and Ryan:

We, the undersigned governors, thank you for your past support for biomedical research and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and ask you to craft a budget resolution that accommodates the President’s $32.2 billion FY 2011 NIH budget request.

The greatest contribution NIH makes is to the health and well-being of Americans. Past federal investments in medical research, combined with those from the private sector, have led to improved health, better quality of life, and improved productivity for millions of patients and their families.

But NIH is also an important national, regional, and local economic engine. Together, our states received more than $19 billion from the NIH last year for promising research efforts. NIH funding directly supports 350,000 jobs across the U.S. In our states, we see firsthand the world class research institutions and scientific teams enabled by NIH, as well as the indirect job benefits of laboratories needing space, supplies, services, and equipment. We are also deeply aware that NIH-funded discoveries are the basis of new companies and even new industries in our communities.

NIH research is an instrumental part of the success of the U.S. life sciences industry and its 6 million high wage U.S. jobs. Moreover, follow-on life science research advances are now stimulating new jobs and new solutions in green energy, agriculture, the environment and industrial manufacturing. NIH funding enables the scientific talent and discoveries that are at the heart of this vast array of economic activity.
As you develop the Congressional Budget Resolution, we urge you to enable the 3.2% funding increase for NIH contained in the President's budget request.

With warm regards,

Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin

Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.
Colorado

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California

Governor Jack Markell
Delaware

Governor Pat Quinn
Illinois

Governor Chester J. Culver
Iowa

Governor M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut

Governor Steven L. Beshear
Kentucky

Governor Bob Riley
Alabama

Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts

Governor Mark Parkinson
Kansas

Governor David A. Paterson
New York

Governor Martin O’Malley
Maryland

Governor Chris Christie
New Jersey
Governor Bev Perdue
North Carolina

Governor Ted Strickland
Ohio

Governor Brad Henry
Oklahoma

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski
Oregon

Governor Edward G. Rendell
Pennsylvania

Governor M. Michael Rounds
South Dakota

Governor Phil Bredesen
Tennessee

Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Washington

Governor Joe Manchin III
West Virginia

Governor Dave Freudenthal
Wyoming

cc: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader John Boehner
Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Tom Harkin
Congressman David Obey
Congressman Jerry Lewis
Congressman Todd Tiahrt