ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Members Shelby and Lowey:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an association of 60 leading U.S. public and private research universities, we congratulate you on the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and thank you for working together to ensure that critical federal programs remain funded and operating on behalf of the American people. We hope this spirit of compromise and cooperation continues and leads to further action to address deficit reduction, end sequestration, and sustain our investment in national priorities.

In particular, we wish to thank you for your continued prioritization of scientific research and higher education programs, as demonstrated by funding levels for the Pell Grant and other student aid programs, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Department of Defense basic research programs, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. AAU joins you in wishing more could have been done to restore the funding lost to sequestration for two of our nation’s premiere research agencies, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to close the innovation deficit – the gap between needed and actual investments in research and higher education. Reaching an agreement in FY 2014 was a crucial step forward, but there is still more to be done to ensure that government is able to make the investments needed to promote economic growth. We hope that Congress and the President will make such investments in FY 2015 and adopt an approach over the longer run that ends sequestration, achieves long-term savings through entitlement reforms, includes tax reforms to encourage economic growth and raise revenues, and places a high priority on investments in higher education and scientific research to close the innovation deficit and build a better future for coming generations of Americans.

Thank you for leadership.

Sincerely,

Hunter R. Rawlings III  
President