July 27, 2006

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Science, the Departments of State,
Justice, and Commerce,
and Related Agencies
241 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Science, the Departments of State,
Justice, and Commerce,
and Related Agencies
2302 Rayburn House Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), representing 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, I write to thank you for your support of basic research essential to our nation’s future competitiveness. Specifically, we commend you and the Appropriations Committee for fully funding the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative, which makes important investments in the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Your investment in these agencies will enable researchers, many of whom work at our universities, to contribute to our future economic competitiveness, to enhance our innovation capacity, to help ensure our future energy and national security, and to improve our overall quality of life. These investments will also help to educate and train the next generation of U.S. scientists and engineers.

Your ongoing support of science and of key research agencies such as NSF and NIST is greatly appreciated. As this bill moves to conference, we would urge you to sustain these funding levels.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Berdahl
President

cc: The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable David R. Obey
July 27, 2006

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), representing 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, I write to thank you for your support of basic research essential to our nation’s future competitiveness. Specifically, we commend you and the Appropriations Committee for the funding you provided in your bill for the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative, which makes important investments in the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Your investment in these agencies will enable researchers, many of whom work at our universities, to contribute to our future economic competitiveness, to enhance our innovation capacity, to help ensure our future energy and national security, and to improve our overall quality of life. These investments will also help to educate and train the next generation of U.S. scientists and engineers.

Your ongoing support of science and of key research agencies such as NSF and NIST is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Berdahl
President

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran
    The Honorable Robert C. Byrd