July 7, 2004

The Honorable Rick Santorum   The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building   703 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate   United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510   Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Santorum and Bingaman:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the National Association of State Universities & Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), we write to thank you for your colloquy before the Senate on June 17 during consideration of the Defense Authorization bill.

We appreciate your comments concerning the immense value of the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) program. In particular, we were pleased to hear of your continued strong support of the Defense Department’s Basic Research (6.1) account and your affirmation of the strategic contributions of our nation’s research universities – both in the generation of new knowledge and technology and in the education and training of future scientists and engineers.

Finally, we strongly support your S&T funding target of 3 percent of the total Department of Defense appropriation. We believe that it is a realistic goal that will contribute not only to our national defense, but also enhance our long-term capacity for technological innovation.

Thank you again for your leadership on an issue of great importance to the nation.

Cordially,

Nils Hasselmo   C. Peter Magrath
President   President
Association of American Universities   National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges