June 30, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
H-232 Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Majority Leader
H-107 Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6502

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Majority Leader:

On behalf of the higher education community, we write to commend you for recent actions by the House that support the additional research investments proposed by President Bush in his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). Specifically, we commend the House for providing all of the requested FY07 ACI funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

In addition to the approval of the ACI funding, we urge the House to approve complementary competitiveness authorization legislation reported by the House Science Committee in early June. This set of measures, The Early Career Research Act (H.R. 5356) and The Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act (H.R. 5358), would strengthen existing education and research programs to develop and provide teacher training; attract math and science majors to teaching; improve undergraduate math, science, and engineering courses; and expand interdisciplinary graduate work. By strengthening existing math and science education and research programs at the NSF and DOE Office of Science, these measures build upon the President’s ACI and take a critical step towards implementing recommendations contained in several recent reports on U.S. economic competitiveness, including the National Academy of Sciences’ report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm.

Again, we applaud the support that the House has provided for the ACI. We hope you will work with your House appropriations colleagues to maintain these funding levels in conference and will bring the House Science Committee’s competitiveness legislation to the House floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Robert Berdahl    Peter McPherson    David Ward
President    President    President
Association of American Universities    National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges    American Council on Education

cc:   Representative Jerry Lewis
Representative Frank R. Wolf
Representative David L. Hobson
Representative Sherwood L. Boehlert
July 7, 2006

Dear Ms. Minority Leader and Mr. Minority Whip:

On behalf of the higher education community, we write to commend you for recent actions by the House that support the additional research investments proposed by President Bush in his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). Specifically, we commend the House for providing all of the requested FY07 ACI funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

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Again, we applaud the support that the House has provided for the ACI. We hope you will work with your House appropriations colleagues to maintain these funding levels in conference and will support efforts to bring the House Science Committee competitiveness legislation to the House floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Robert Berdahl    Peter McPherson    David Ward
President    President     President
Association of American Universities    National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges   American Council on Education

cc:    Representative David Obey
       Representative Alan B. Mollohan
       Representative Peter J. Visclosky
       Representative Bart Gordon