



ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC AND  
LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES



November 3, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As your administration develops your FY 2011 budget, we write on behalf of the nation's leading research universities to urge your continued strong support for scientific research.

The combined membership of AAU and A·P·L·U include most major public and private research universities in the United States. Our universities are committed to working in partnership with the federal government to educate the intellectual talent and produce the scientific breakthroughs and new technologies to meet the nation's most daunting challenges, from ensuring the health of our people to finding alternative sources of energy, and from protecting our national security to growing our economy.

You have made clear that you intend to sustain and strengthen this relationship. Our universities greatly appreciate the strong leadership you have already demonstrated in support of scientific research and science, math, engineering and technology (STEM) education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). With ARRA's research and education funding, research universities have sustained and created new jobs and research opportunities, even as our institutions struggle with declining state appropriations and endowments. At a time when our country faces the gravest economic crisis in seventy years, your administration has also supported our institutions so that we can continue to train and educate our nation's next generation of scientists, engineers and leaders.

Your repeated commitment to double funding for basic scientific research and your goal of devoting more than three percent of GDP to research not only inspire the scientists and engineers of tomorrow, they demonstrate your conviction that we must maintain U.S. science and technology leadership in this new century. You clearly understand that stable and sustained research and education funding not only helps our economy today, but assures our economic and national security for the future.

Therefore, as you craft your FY 2011 budget, we urge you to build upon your already demonstrated commitment to science and we pledge to work with you to achieve your administration's goals in these important areas. We look forward to working in partnership with you and your Administration, as well as Congress, to make our nation stronger and more secure.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Berdahl  
President, Association of American Universities

Peter McPherson  
President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

cc: Peter Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
John Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy