



July 30, 2015

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cornyn and Wyden:

We write to offer our congratulations on the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee's unanimous approval yesterday of S. 779, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2015 (FASTR).

We are particularly pleased by the adoption of the Johnson-Carper substitute amendment, which extends the prescribed embargo period to a maximum of twelve months in line with OSTP public access policy guidelines and NIH's successful Public Access Policy. We believe this longer embargo provision will better reflect the FASTR Act's explicit acknowledgment of the need to balance two important interests: ensuring that research is made widely available to the public while it is still useful and sustaining scientific publisher-supported peer review and other important functions.

Overall, we believe that FASTR is sound legislation that will expand public access to the results of federally funded research and create the infrastructure to support a growing public-private network of interoperable repositories of research articles and data across all disciplines. Such a network will greatly increase access to and use of new knowledge by scientists and scholars.

We commend you for the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Hunter R. Rawlings III
President
Association of American Universities

Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

cc: Senator Tom Carper
Senator Ron Johnson