

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chair  
Senate Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chair  
House Science, Space, and Technology  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Science, Space, and Technology  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cantwell, Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Wicker, and Ranking Member Lucas:

As the Conference Committee convenes to reconcile the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521) and the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) (S. 1260), we write in opposition to provisions which would hamstring future research funding at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE) with a high, fixed allocation through Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) activities.

As you know, provisions in the Senate passed USICA would set aside 20 percent of the total NSF budget for EPSCoR states as well as 20 percent of funds authorized for DOE and the NSF Directorate for Technology and Innovation. We strongly oppose such provisions, which would leave behind emerging research institutions in non-EPSCoR states. Arbitrarily walling off a sizable percentage of a science agency's budget from a sizable majority of the country's research institutions would fundamentally reduce the entire nation's scientific capacity and damage the research profiles of existing institutions – contrary to the goals of both USICA and the COMPETES Act.

For the United States to maintain and expand its innovation leadership, developing the total pool of research enterprises is essential. We must prioritize fostering scientific talent and developing new technologies. If large portions of science agency budgets are off limits to these institutions, innovative research in our states would be compromised.

We urge you to ensure that the final bill broadens participation in our world-class research ecosystem and to support policies that elevate research in EPSCoR and non-EPSCoR states alike.

Sincerely,



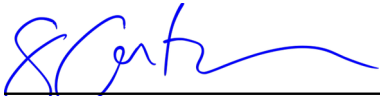
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Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



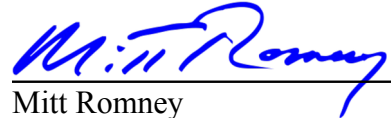
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator




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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



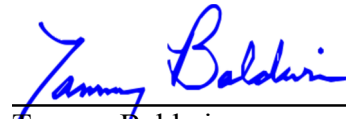
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Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



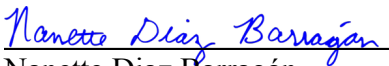
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



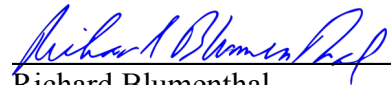
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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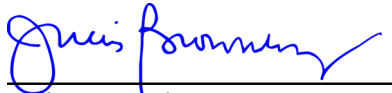
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



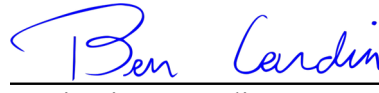
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



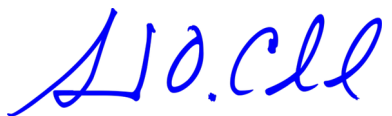
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



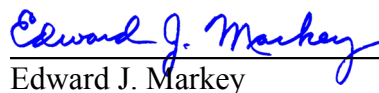
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



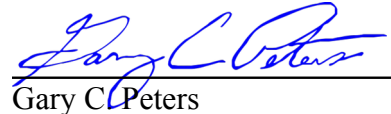
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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



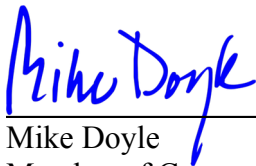
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



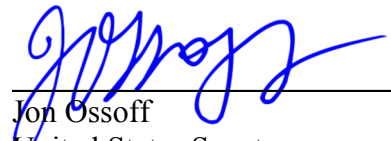
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Rob Portman  
United States Senator



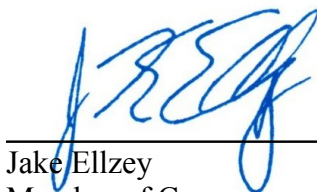
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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



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Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator




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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



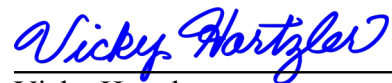
Charles J. "Chuck"  
Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



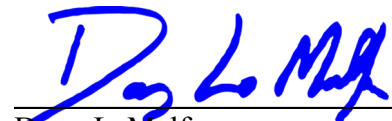
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



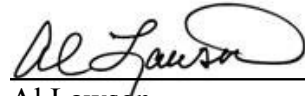
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



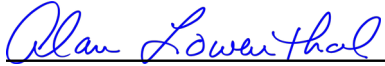
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



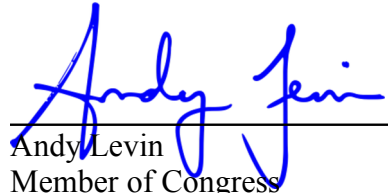
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress



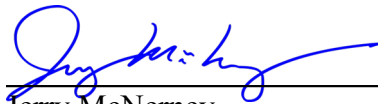
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Kathy E. Manning  
Member of Congress



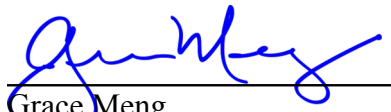
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



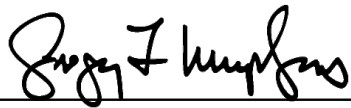
Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



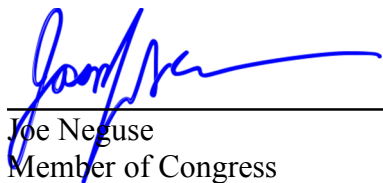
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



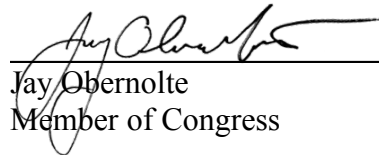
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



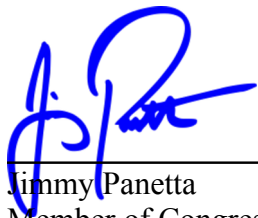
Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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David E. Price  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



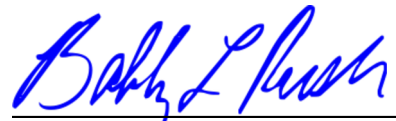
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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



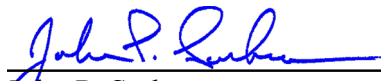
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C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



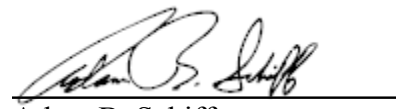
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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

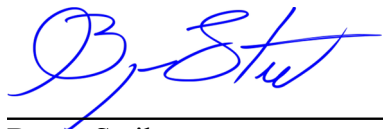





Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



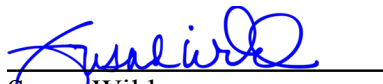
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



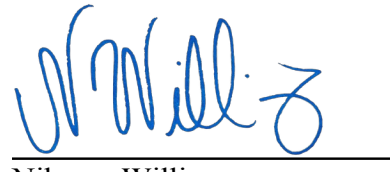
Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

CC: Senate and House USICA/COMPETES Act Conferees

Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI)  
Senator John Barasso (WY)  
Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)  
Senator Richard Burr (NC)  
Senator Shelley Moore Capito (WV)  
Senator John Cornyn (TX)  
Senator Mike Crapo (ID)  
Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)  
Senator Martin Heinrich (MN)  
Senator John Hickenlooper (CO)  
Senator Mark Kelly (AZ)  
Senator Robert Menendez (NJ)  
Senator Jerry Moran (KS)  
Senator Patty Murray (WA)  
Senator Gary Peters (MI)  
Senator Rob Portman (OH)  
Senator Jim Risch (ID)  
Senator Richard Shelby (AL)  
Senator John Tester (MT)  
Senator Pat Toomey (PA)  
Senator Mark Warner (VA)  
Senator Raphael Warnock (GA)  
Senator Ron Wyden (OR)  
Senator Todd Young (IN)

Representative Brian Babin (TX)  
Representative Andy Barr (KY)  
Representative Karen Bass (CA)  
Representative Ami Bera (CA)  
Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR)  
Representative Suzanne Bonamici (OR)  
Representative Mike Bost (IL)  
Representative Jamaal Bowman (NY)  
Representative Kevin Brady (TX)  
Representative Vern Buchanan (FL)  
Representative Larry Bucshon (IN)  
Representative Joaquin Castro (TX)  
Representative Steve Chabot (OH)  
Representative Judy Chu (CA)  
Representative Rick Crawford (AR)  
Representative Dan Crenshaw (TX)  
Representative Sharice Davids (KS)  
Representative Danny Davis (IL)

Representative Peter DeFazio (OR)  
Representative Suzan DelBene (WA)  
Representative Val Demmings (FL)  
Representative Ted Deutch (FL)  
Representative Jeff Duncan (SC)  
Representative Veronica Escobar (TX)  
Representative Anna Eshoo (CA)  
Representative Bill Foster (IL)  
Representative Virginia Foxx (NC)  
Representative Mike Garcia (CA)  
Representative Sylvia Garcia (TX)  
Representative Jimmy Gomez (CA)  
Representative Mark Green (TN)  
Representative Raúl Grijalva (AZ)  
Representative Michael Guest (MS)  
Representative Yvette Herrell (NM)  
Representative Chrissy Houlahan (PA)  
Representative Sara Jacobs (CA)  
Representative Ro Khanna (CA)  
Representative Dan Kildee (MI)  
Representative Young Kim (CA)  
Representative Adam Kinzinger (IL)  
Representative Darin LaHood (IL)  
Representative Zoe Lofgren (CA)  
Representative Tom Malinowsky (NJ)  
Representative Carolyn Maloney (NY)  
Representative Doris Matsui (CA)  
Representative Michael McCaul (TX)  
Representative Donald McEachin (VA)  
Representative Gregory Meeks (NY)  
Representative Carol Miller (WV)  
Representative Blake Moore (UT)  
Representative Joe Morelle (NY)  
Representative Jerrold Nadler (NY)  
Representative Richard Neal (MA)  
Representative Donald Norcross (NJ)  
Representative Frank Pallone (NJ)  
Representative Chris Pappas (NH)  
Representative Chellie Pingree (ME)  
Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE)  
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)  
Representative Mary Gay Scanlon (PA)

Representative Jan Schakowsky (IL)  
Representative David Scott (GA)  
Representative Bobby Scott (VA)  
Representative Adrian Smith (NE)  
Representative Darren Soto (FL)  
Representative Haley Stevens (MI)  
Representative Mark Takano (CA)  
Representative Glenn Thompson (PA)  
Representative Tom Tiffany (WI)  
Representative Dina Titus (NV)  
Representative Paul Tonko (CA)  
Representative Nydia Velázquez (NY)  
Representative Ann Wagner (MO)  
Representative Michael Waltz (FL)  
Representative Maxine Waters (CA)  
Representative Randy Weber (TX)