

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.

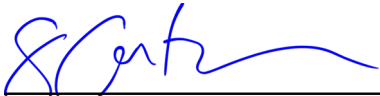
Sincerely,



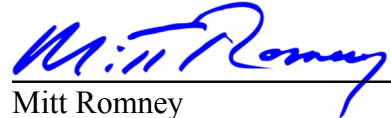
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress




Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



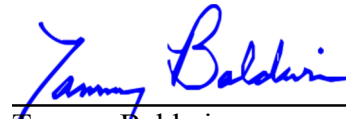
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



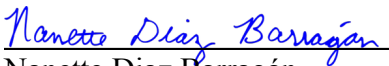
Mitt Romney
United States Senator



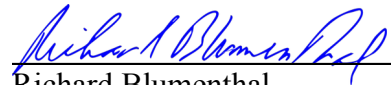
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



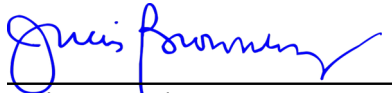
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



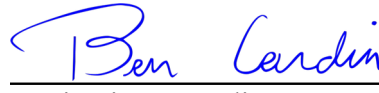
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



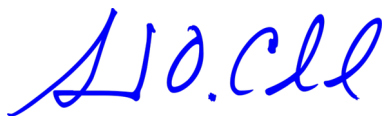
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



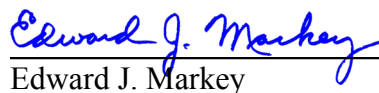
Steve Cohen
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Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jim Cooper
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Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



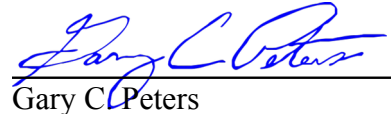
Jim Costa
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United States Senator



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



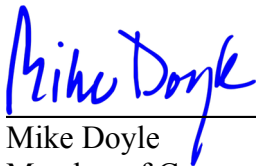
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



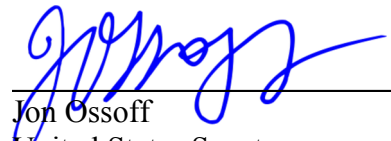
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



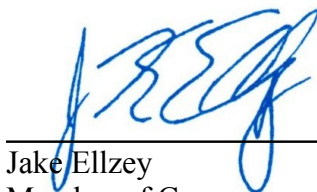
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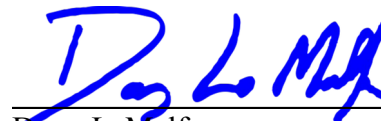
Derek Kilmer
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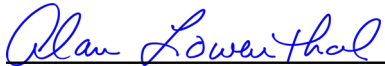
Doug LaMalfa
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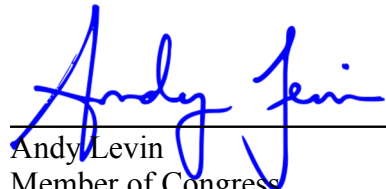
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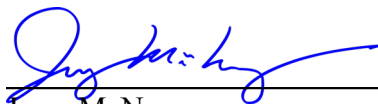
Stephen F. Lynch
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Member of Congress

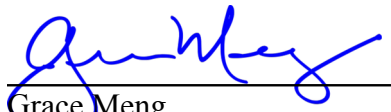


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress

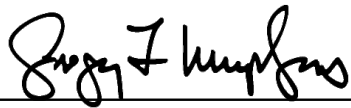
M.C.



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



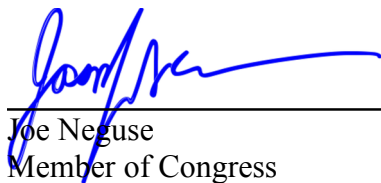
Gwen S. Moore
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
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Grace F. Napolitano
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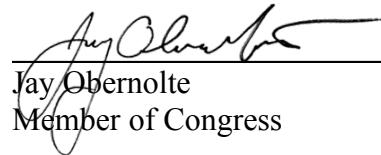
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



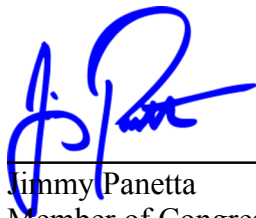
Dan Newhouse
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Jay Obernolte
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Jimmy Panetta
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Scott H. Peters
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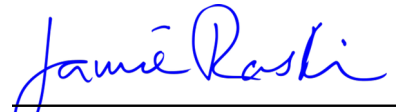
Katie Porter
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Ayanna Pressley
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David E. Price
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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



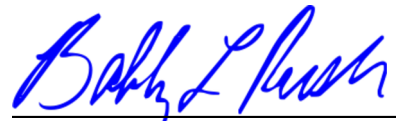
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



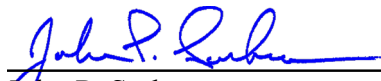
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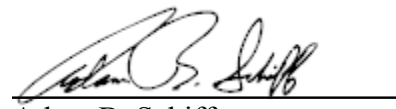
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Member of Congress



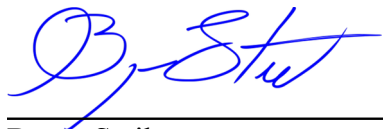
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Mikie Sherrill
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Elissa Slotkin
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Bryan Steil
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Haley M. Stevens
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Mike Thompson
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David J. Trone
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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

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Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)
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Representative Maxine Waters (CA)
Representative Randy Weber (TX)