



June 14, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United State House of Representatives
23217 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United State House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I write to express our support as your Committee moves to mark-up H.R. 2225, the National Science Foundation for the Future Act, and H.R. 3593, the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act. These bipartisan bills send a clear message about the importance of federal research and development to help discover and develop the innovations that will improve our quality of life and fuel economic growth.

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. Annually, APLU's 197 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.1 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$42.4 billion in university-based research.

APLU appreciates the efforts you and your staff took in consulting with our community as you developed these bills. We thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments. Your staff has been generous in meeting with APLU and many member institutions.

H.R. 3593, the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, is the first ever comprehensive reauthorization bill for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science. The DOE Office of Science is the leading federal agency to fund research in the physical sciences and an integral sponsor of critical U.S. scientific infrastructure. We appreciate the Committee's well-defined, well-vetted, and bipartisan roadmap for the Office in the bill. With the Senate's inclusion of DOE authorization in the recently passed U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260), it will be important to ensure appropriate consultation and coordination.

Our nation's public research universities have a critical role to play in helping create a more just and equitable society through a high-quality education and welcoming and inclusive environments to diverse student bodies. Within H.R. 2225, the NSF Futures Act, APLU is particularly supportive of the formal authorization of the NSF Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) program. APLU currently co-leads the NSF INCLUDES [Aspire Alliance](#), which is a multi-institutional collaboration. Working at the individual, institutional, regional, and national levels, the project provides the higher education and research community with promising practices to broaden student participation in STEM programs, foster career pathways toward the professoriate, and tools to effectively recruit, hire, and retain STEM faculty from underrepresented groups.

In addition, APLU supports the Committee's focus on improving undergraduate STEM education and mentoring programs and professional development for graduate students within H.R. 2225. APLU has a long history of supporting improvements in STEM education and workforce readiness. NSF is an important partner in these efforts at institutions across the country.

APLU has also been supportive of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260). One of the shared components of both S. 1260 and H.R. 2225 is the creation of a new directorate at NSF to focus more on technology development. President Biden's recent FY 2022 budget proposal also contained a similar plan for NSF. The creation and funding of a new technology-focused directorate at NSF would help springboard discoveries made in the lab to commercial breakthroughs that enhance quality of life and fuel U.S. economic growth. It would also foster U.S. leadership in nascent but society-shaping sectors that are core to our national interest such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, computing, and biotechnology. We look forward to working with both you and your Senate counterparts as you work out the differences between these proposals and ultimately send bicameral legislation to President Biden's desk.

Both H.R. 2225 and S. 1260 contain provisions focuses on safeguarding federally-supported research from attempts by foreign governments to steal intellectual property. APLU's members are deeply committed to safeguarding this research while also engaging in appropriate international scientific collaborations that are a cornerstone of modern scientific practice. As the legislative process continues, we look forward to working with lawmakers to ensure new research security regulations are appropriate in scope, not duplicative, and do not needlessly hamper appropriate international education and scientific partnerships.

I commend you for your work on these important pieces of legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter McPherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "M".

Peter McPherson
President