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

May 24, 2022

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
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

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
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)