

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 21, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

We are writing you to express our concern that reckless budget cuts contained in the House-passed FY 2014 budget and in many of the bills being considered through the Appropriations Committee would devastate federal investment in research, thereby slowing economic growth and worsening the long-run budget outlook. As our colleagues continue to conference on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, we urge you to prioritize a budget that protects investments in our future and to work with the leadership of the Appropriations Committee to ensure that the bills moving through that committee provide sufficient funding for research activities.

While the impacts of the sequester may not all grab headlines, many of them will have devastating impacts not just today, but for decades to come. For example, the \$12.5 billion being cut from research as the result of the sequester in 2013 alone means that numerous peer-reviewed grant applications will not be funded, potentially depriving us of extremely valuable research. If the sequester continues into 2014, the impacts on research could be even worse given that many one-time savings have already been utilized to make up for the first round of sequester cuts. The impacts of these cuts will be dire—to put it plainly, new inventions, equipment and medical treatment will be put off for years as a result.

Federal investment in research cannot simply be switched on and off. Many valuable research projects can take years or even decades to ultimately come to fruition. For this reason, immediate cuts will make it extremely difficult to restore adequate research in the years to come. Moreover, research frequently has a cascading effect. For example, microwaves were developed thanks to federal research funding. Subsequently, microwaves helped lead to the development of lasers by Charles Townes, who received funding from the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. Ultimately, laser technology became the basis of a series of technologies that now form the infrastructure of modern life, including the Internet, satellite broadcasting and digital media.

Reckless austerity measures not only hurt future investments, they also will fail to deliver the promised savings, especially over the long-term. The *Los Angeles Times* recently reported that while mapping the human genome cost \$4 billion, it created \$796 billion in economic growth

between 2000 and 2010. America's biomedical industry, which is in no small part the product of sustained federal investment, exports \$90 billion in goods and services each year and employs nearly one million citizens.

To be sure, the immediate impacts of the sequester should not be discounted. Americans across the country are struggling as the result of furloughs of hundreds of thousands of workers, cuts to unemployment insurance and the loss of support services for many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, all of which have been brought about by sequestration. Yet it is important to keep in mind that the impacts that we're seeing today are not the only harms being done by these reckless cuts.

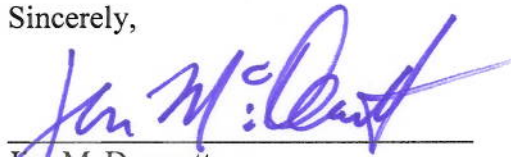
Cuts to federal research are not the only cuts that will hurt the American economy for years to come. Student financial aid—including work study and TRIO programs—helps make our colleges and universities accessible to millions who need skills and training for jobs to keep our economy growing, yet the work-study program faces \$51 million in cuts and TRIO faces \$42 million in cuts this year alone. Similarly, early childhood education and child nutrition programs carry a cost in the short term, but dramatically improve our children's ability to compete later on. Similar stories are true for a number of other investments in the future that are being shortchanged by the reckless and misguided cuts enacted by the sequester.

Federal investment has been a cornerstone of American competitiveness for over 100 years. The innovations and productivity it funds have created industries that put millions of Americans to work and improve the quality of life for countless individuals across the globe. In essence, it is an economic engine we can't give up on.

Reckless cuts to investments in our future are the wrong way to go and will end up slowing economic growth and putting the federal budget in worse shape in the long run. As the FY 2014 budget process moves forward, we urge you to reject the short-sighted cuts to research and other investments in our future that are at the core of the Ryan Budget.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views.

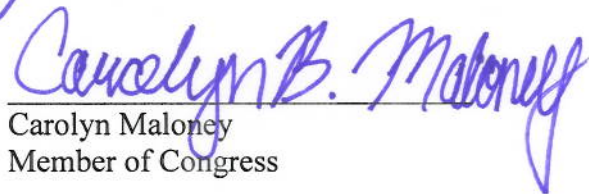
Sincerely,



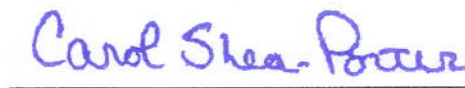
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



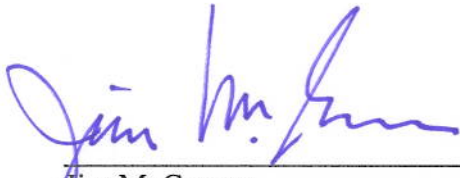
George Miller
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



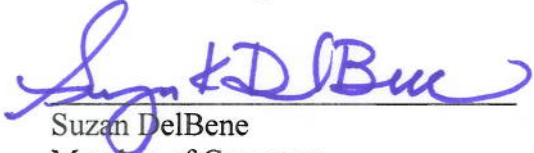
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



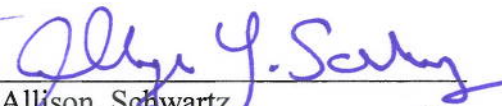
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



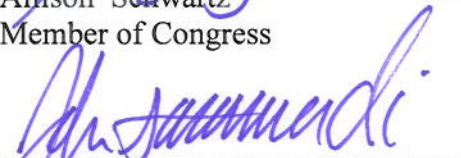
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



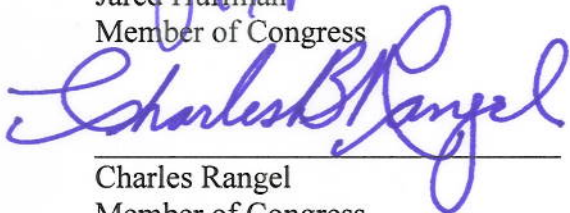
Allison Schwartz
Member of Congress



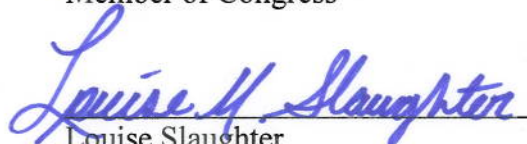
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



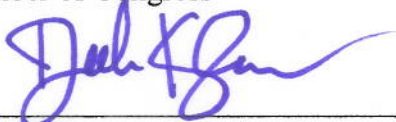
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



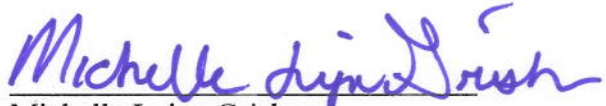
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



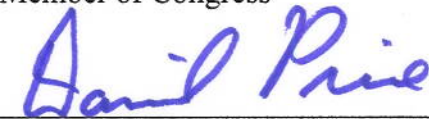
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



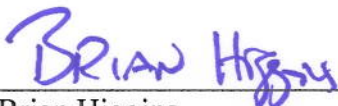
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



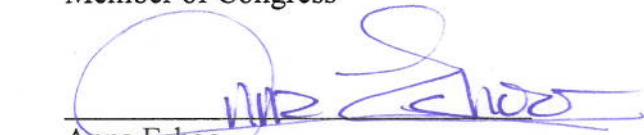
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress




David Price
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



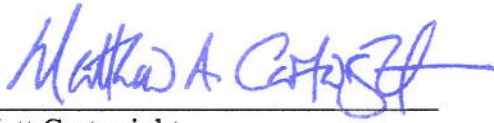
Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



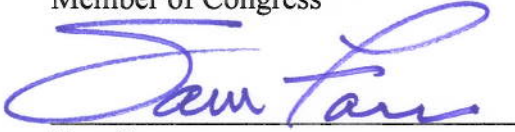
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



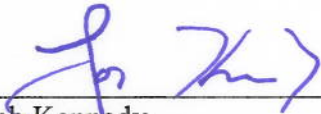
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



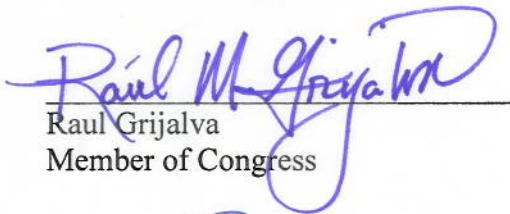
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Joseph Kennedy
Member of Congress



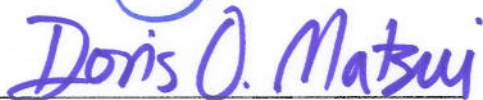
Raul Grijalva
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Mark Pocan
Member of Congress




Denny Heck
Member of Congress



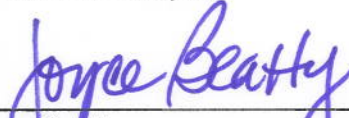
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



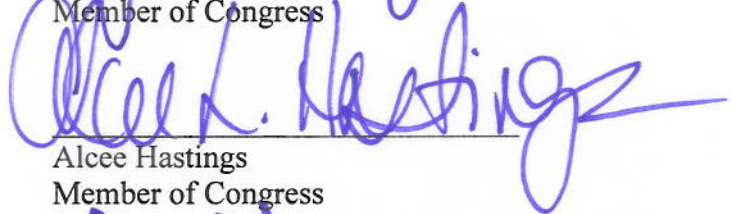
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



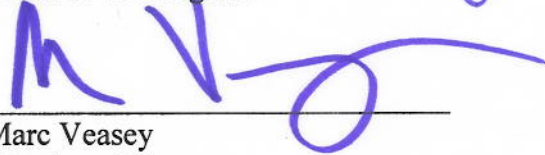
Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



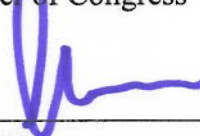
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress