



May 18, 2015

Dear Michigan Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

The America COMPETES Act was first signed into law by President Bush in 2007 to “invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.”

We are writing to you because the current version of The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1806) being considered in the House of Representatives gives us great concern that the initial intent of this legislation is being threatened.

While we appreciate the overall increases in the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) budgets, these increases are followed by deep cuts to DOE programs like ARPA-E and EERE and directorates at the NSF like SBE and GEO. Specifically related to NSF, we find it troubling that H.R. 1806 authorizes each directorate individually, effectively creating winner and losers in an agency tasked with funding research across all disciplines.

The cuts to basic science research included in H.R. 1806 undermines the research that is being done in the great state of Michigan and across the nation and will have severe impacts on higher education, innovation, and our ability to compete globally.

We hope that you will consider our concerns with H.R. 1806 and the impact this legislation would have on the higher education institutions in your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'S. Hu'.

S. Jack Hu
Interim Vice President for
Research
University of Michigan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen M. Lanier'.

Stephen M. Lanier
Vice President for Research
Wayne State University

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Hsu'.

Stephen Hsu
Vice President for Research
and Graduate Studies
Michigan State University