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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

August 20, 2009

President Mark Yudof  
University of California Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Yudof:

Echoing the more than 3,700 Postdoctoral Scholars who wrote to you earlier this month, I write to urge the University of California finish negotiating a first contract covering the 6,000 Postdoctoral Scholars by the end of August.

UC's federal grant revenue, which, as I am informed, provides the funding for the vast majority of Postdoctoral Scholars' salaries and benefits, more than doubled in the last decade and is projected to increase dramatically once again as part of current federal initiatives under the Obama administration.

A fair contract should include improvements to salaries and benefits that reflect this ongoing expansion of UC's federally-funded research budget. It should also extend the same rights and standards UC has already agreed to in its contract with 12,000 academic student employees represented by the UAW, such as the right to take leaves for childbearing, family medical, or bereavement without loss of pay.

A fair contract will enhance UC's ability to attract the most talented researchers who play such a critical role in advancing our nation's economic growth and improving our collective health and well-being.

I understand that the parties have met on 40 dates since beginning bargaining. I encourage the University to take whatever steps are necessary to conclude bargaining for a fair first contract for Postdoctoral Scholars immediately.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress