



# UAW Local 4121

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February 10, 2009

The Honorable Jim McDermott  
United States House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McDermott:

On behalf of UAW Local 4121, which represents 4,500 Academic Student Employees at the University of Washington, I'm writing to urge your support for an Economic Reinvestment and Recovery Bill that includes significant funding for federal research agencies. Thousands of our members work as Research Assistants and Trainees at UW, and most rely on federal grants for their salaries. The majority of federal research funds that support projects, staff, and infrastructure at the University of Washington come from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Energy (DOE). The loss in real dollars of research funding in the last five years has resulted in a strain on vital ongoing projects – and fewer jobs for our members. This means that the University and U.S. institutions of higher education generally have diminished capacity to remain international leaders in research innovation.

We're enthusiastic about the increases to federal research funding included in the House's Economy Recovery Act, which amount to an estimated \$13.3 billion infusion in federal research and development (R&D), including boosts to NIH, NSF and DOE budgets. The Senate version of the economic recovery and reinvestment bill would make substantial improvements to Federal R&D, and we're especially pleased that an amendment sponsored by Senators Specter, Harkin and Durbin would boost NIH funding by \$6.5 billion. However, we're greatly concerned that NSF funding – which supports critical science and engineering research in energy, climate change and disease research – has been cut by the recent Collins-Nelson amendment.

Restoring the cuts that have been made to federal research funding strengthens our economies by creating jobs and helping us tackle some of our most pressing societal needs. We strongly urge your support for increased research funding in the final version of the economic reinvestment and recovery bill.

Sincerely,

David Parsons  
President

cc: Washington Congressional Delegation