

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

[DATE]

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. We strongly urge you to immediately request a conference to enact 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 this year alone means that numerous peer-reviewed grant applications will not be funded, potentially depriving us of extremely valuable research. The impacts of this 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 request a conference on the budget and subsequently 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