Dear Secretary Perry, Dr. Collins, Administrator Pruitt, Dr. Córdova, Dr. Rochford, Acting Administrator Friedman, and Acting Administrator Lightfoot:

We write to you today to ask for information on the number of jobs that would be eliminated at our nation’s universities and National Laboratories if the President’s Budget Request (PBR) for Fiscal Year 2018 were to be enacted.

Our universities and National Laboratory system support a world-class workforce of research scientists, engineers, and support personnel who work as teams on long-term solutions to address some of the nation’s greatest challenges. Moreover, our universities and National Labs play a unique and critical role in educating the next generation of American scientists and researchers, including thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at hundreds of U.S. institutions who depend upon federal funding and facilities for their research and training.

We recognize that we must set priorities and make smart, strategic decisions about federal funding. But we also have serious concerns about the priorities this Administration appears to be setting. From economic stagnation and dependence on foreign energy to curing diseases and addressing threats to our national security, scientific research is the foundation for the innovative solutions that will enable us to overcome many of our greatest challenges. Instead, the funding
levels requested in the FY18 PBR would cause permanent damage to our research infrastructure and workforce and furthermore force our National Labs to lay off critical scientific staff. This is no way to keep America great or maintain our position as a leader in science and innovation.

We cannot properly evaluate the full impact of the FY18 PBR until we know how many university researchers and National Laboratory employees would lose their federal funding or their jobs if these funding levels were enacted. Please provide your projections on how many researchers would be supported in the FY18 PBR compared to the current level as of the spring 2017. Also provide your estimates on how many National Laboratory employees would lose their jobs if these funding levels were enacted. We appreciate your detailed response no later than June 15, 2017.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress