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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Democratic  
Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson,  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives McCarthy, Pelosi, Smith, and Bernice Johnson:

I am writing to express opposition to H.R.1806, the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015*. While we appreciate the committee's extensive efforts to consider this reauthorization, and improvements made since the last Congress, this legislation in its current form fails to live up to the vision set out in the original *America COMPETES Act of 2007*, and subsequent legislation in 2010, to make increased investments in research and education through the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) research programs, and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) a top national priority.

In particular, we are deeply concerned about proposed, targeted cuts to the NSF's Geosciences and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorates and the DOE's Biological and Environmental Research and Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E) programs. These programs are funding critical research projects in Colorado and around the nation that helps facilitate private and public sector innovation, inform decision makers, develop the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce, and ultimately contribute to the well-being of the American public.

Grants from these programs support research at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) conducted by faculty and students that have real impacts for the state and the nation. A few examples of this research include protecting air travel through advance detection of volcanic plumes; understanding the air and water quality impacts of hydraulic fracturing; creating best practices for local, state, and federal natural disaster response and resiliency; understanding the health and behaviors of prison inmates;

assessing the impacts of the housing market collapse on attitudes related to home ownership; transforming industry through innovations in unmanned aerial systems; and the development of small scale reactors for natural gas conversion. These are a just a few examples of the research projects conducted on our campus with support from these agencies that have broad application across society.

In today's budget climate, we understand the difficulties of prioritizing investments in research and education. Nevertheless, Congressional support of these programs is vital to ensure our continued global competitiveness. We urge you to improve H.R. 1806 so that it truly enhances America's innovation capacity by appropriately funding all areas of science and research.

We look forward to working with you as this legislation progresses. Please don't hesitate to contact me, or Abby Benson, Associate Vice President of Government Relations (202-480-5782 or abby.benson@cu.edu), with any questions.

Sincerely,



Stein Sture, PhD  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
Huber and Helen Croft Endowed Professor of Engineering and Applied Science

cc: Representative DeGette  
Representative Polis  
Representative Tipton  
Representative Buck  
Representative Lamborn  
Representative Coffman  
Representative Perlmutter