



THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

ATTENTION: COMPETES Act, HR 1806

Dear Member of Congress:

This week the House will take up H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, as part of “Innovation Week.” As a leading research university in the state, Texas A&M University appreciates the focus of Chairman Lamar Smith and the House to our nation’s innovation and science agenda.

Given that Congress faces tight spending limits, we are pleased to see that the bill increases funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) by over \$200 million from current spending levels. Importantly for universities like Texas A&M who partner with NSF for cutting edge research, we are equally pleased to see that the bulk of the increase goes to the Research and Related Activities account. In addition to NSF, Texas A&M is also pleased to see that the bill reauthorizes important programs at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Energy (DOE).

While we appreciate the overall goals of the bill, some areas of disagreement with the research community remain. We look forward to continuing to work with the delegation and the Science Committee to address these concerns as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you for working to advance research and development legislation this Congress through bills such as H.R. 1806. It is important to continue to prioritize research and development at agencies such as NSF, especially in tight budget times. Key investments made today will yield exponential growth for our future. We appreciate your leadership and support for Texas A&M, and are honored to be a resource in the state for the research, education, and training needed to tackle current and future challenges.

If you have any questions please contact Scott Sudduth in the Texas A&M University System Office of Federal Relations at 202-461-3488, ssudduth@tamus.edu.