

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



June 13, 2016

The Honorable Darin LaHood
U.S. House of Representatives
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative LaHood,

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Urbana) is pleased to endorse H.R. 5312, the *Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Modernization Act of 2016*.

The NITRD program plays a critical role in coordinating federal investments in Information Technology (IT) research and development to better enable and equip research communities in addressing complex grand challenges in science, engineering, and society.

Coordination and integration is increasingly important in the IT ecosystem. This is particularly true for high performance computing (HPC) and Big Data. At Urbana, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) serves as a world-class hub of transdisciplinary research and digital scholarship in which collaborators from across the globe unite to solve real-world problems. NCSA leads the two single largest National Science Foundation (NSF) investments in high-end computing and data analysis—the NSF Blue Waters supercomputer, the most powerful supercomputer in the academic world, and the NSF Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) project, which provides collaborative and shared computing services to the HPC community. These two computing projects support thousands of researchers from across the nation whose research is funded separately by numerous federal agencies. By providing unique science capabilities, these facilities are catalyzing significant discoveries.

In this highly competitive world, we applaud your efforts to lead this legislation to maintain U.S. leadership in research and innovation.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Wilson
Interim Chancellor

c: Peter Schiffer, Vice Chancellor for Research
Edward Seidel, Director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications