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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

August 17, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madame Speaker:

On behalf of the University of California (UC) system, we wish to extend our sincere thanks for your leadership in crafting and passing H.R. 4346, the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. We know this was a product of critical bipartisan efforts over the last few years and we thank you for your time and commitment to promoting federal research and development. Our nation's global leadership in science and technology is dependent upon the research and innovation taking place at universities and national laboratories, and this legislation—through the scientific authorizations and establishment of new research initiatives as well as future investments—will help ensure this continues.

UC greatly appreciates the inclusion of strong authorized funding levels for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, which will be instrumental to advancing basic research breakthroughs and accelerating use-inspired and translational research and technology development. As a major recipient of funding from the NSF, and as the management and operating contractor for three DOE national laboratories—Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos—UC plays a leading role in advancing the federal government's missions in basic science, global competitiveness and economic leadership, and looks forward to strengthening this partnership through the implementation of new programs established in the CHIPS and Science Act.

The legislation's robust investments in research infrastructure are a welcome addition, as these will ensure the continuity of cutting-edge research, including fundamental research at the NSF and DOE. Further, we appreciate the increased authorization levels that will foster the development of a robust STEM workforce and broaden participation in STEM fields. These efforts will promote geographic and institutional diversity and expand research opportunities at Minority-Serving Institutions and emerging research universities. Finally, we are pleased the legislation strikes the right balance between research security and the principles of academic freedom.

While the University strongly supports broadening participation in federally funded research across the country, we remain concerned that the final legislation mandates expanded percent set-asides for NSF and DOE Office of Science funding for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The need to stimulate competitive research extends beyond states' boundaries and numerous geographical regions that need investments and which often have strong diverse and underserved populations are all over the country, not only in EPSCoR states. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress and the research agencies to maintain equity in the grant review process and to ensure that provisions such as the set-asides to EPSCoR states do not undermine the competitive, peer-review process critical to our nation's success.

UC appreciates Congress' commitment to investing in research and technological innovation through this legislation. We would specifically like to thank Kenneth DeGraff and all the staff for their hard work in getting the legislation to the finish line. As we look ahead to what comes next, we urge Congress to move forward with providing robust investments for the research agencies through the fiscal 2023 and in future years appropriations.

Sincerely,



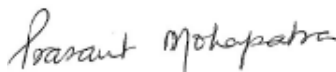
Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
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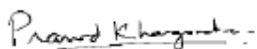
Craig S. Leisure, Ph.D.
Vice President, UC National Laboratories



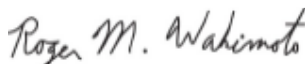
Katherine Yelick
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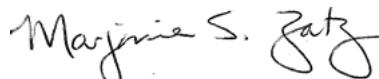
Prasant Mohapatra
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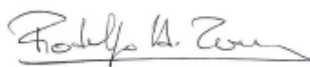
Pramod Khargonekar
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Roger Wakimoto
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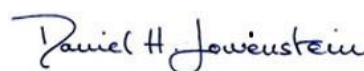
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