



American
Physical
Society

One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3844
Tel: (301) 209-3269
Fax: (301) 209-0867
www.aps.org

January 30, 2014

President
Malcolm R. Beasley
Stanford University

President-Elect
Samuel H. Aronson
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Vice President
Homer A. Neal
University of Michigan

Past President
Michael S. Turner
The University of Chicago

Executive Officer
Kate P. Kirby
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (retired)

Treasurer/Publisher
Joseph W. Serene
Georgetown University (Emeritus)

Editor-in-Chief
Gene D. Sprouse
Stony Brook University (On Leave)

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As president of the American Physical Society (APS), the nation's largest organization of physicists, I am writing to thank you for your continued strong support of basic scientific research and innovation, key drivers of our nation's economic growth.

I was delighted to hear you highlight the importance of the issue during your State of the Union Address on Tuesday. It is imperative that Americans recognize the connection between the federal investment in long-term, basic scientific research and the private sector's development of innovations that improve people's lives and create jobs. And you made that connection persuasively when you noted that "federally funded research helped lead to the ideas and inventions behind Google and smartphones."

APS, an organization of 50,000 physicists who work in our nation's laboratories, universities and industry, remains committed to ensuring that the United States continues to be a global leader in science. There is much at stake as we grapple with increased competition from countries such as China, India, South Korea and those in Western Europe. So I was particularly gratified to hear you urge Congress to "undo the damage done by last year's cut to basic research, so that we can unleash the next great American discovery...." It is critical that Congress heed your call.

As we enter the fiscal year 2015 appropriations season, APS will remain a strong advocate of robust and sustained funding for basic scientific research on Capitol Hill. In closing, I applaud you once again for your commitment to science and look forward to working with you and your administration to secure full funding of basic scientific research to enable new innovations, industries, jobs and prosperity for all Americans.

Very truly yours,

Malcolm R. Beasley
President of the American Physical Society

cc: John Holdren, Jeff Smith, Philip Rubin