



1200 New York Ave, NW  
Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20005



1307 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005

September 21, 2011

Hon. Jeb Hensarling, *Co-Chair*  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. Patty Murray, *Co-Chair*  
U.S. Senate

Hon. Max Baucus  
U.S. Senate

Hon. Xavier Becerra  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. Dave Camp  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. James Clyburn  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. John Kerry  
U.S. Senate

Hon. Jon Kyl  
U.S. Senate

Hon. Rob Portman  
U.S. Senate

Hon. Pat Toomey  
U.S. Senate

Hon. Fred Upton  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities, together with the presidents and chancellors of the member universities listed below, urge the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction and the Congress to reach a balanced agreement that reduces budget deficits, reins in the nation's debt, and creates economic and job growth.

The need for public confidence in the future of the economy and the seriousness of the problem call for a big agreement – not incremental steps. The rising federal debt is unsustainable, and there is bipartisan understanding that significant reductions in budget deficits are necessary to bring the debt under control and achieve long-term prosperity.

Recent deficit reduction actions have concentrated almost entirely on domestic discretionary expenditures, which are only about one-sixth of the budget. Domestic discretionary spending is not the primary cause of our rising debt. Imprudent additional reductions in domestic discretionary expenditures and other federal programs that train the next generation risk undermining our nation's human capital, infrastructure, and technological and scientific needs.

A deficit reduction agreement should seriously address a primary source of long-term spending growth: entitlement programs. The entitlement programs account for a large percentage of the budget, and they are projected to take an increasing share of federal spending in the coming decade. However, the sizable

deficit reduction required cannot be achieved solely through decreasing expenditures. Economic growth is critical. Tax reform should be part of the package, with any revenue measures designed to reduce the deficit and encourage economic growth.

The deficit-reduction legislation will need to prioritize expenditures, and economic growth must be an important consideration in making those decisions as well. Education, scientific research, and innovation underpin our nation's economic growth in this era of enhanced global competitiveness.

Our nation's past focus on education and research has paid extraordinary dividends. More than half of U.S. economic growth since World War II is a result of technological innovation, much of which is a result of federally funded scientific research. Such groundbreaking research has created vaccines, lasers, the MRI, Global Positioning Systems, the Internet, and a host of other advances that have grown our economy, improved our health, and made our nation stronger and more secure. And investments in student aid have made it possible for generations of young Americans to obtain a college education regardless of income. Substantial spending cuts to federal student aid programs have been made in recent years to shore up the Pell Grant program and reduce the deficit. Only by offering opportunities to all of our people to attain the highest levels of education they can will we optimize the nation's human capital to advance our economy and society. For our nation to create jobs and new industries there should be a sustained federal commitment to scientific research and to ensuring that every citizen has access to higher education.

Therefore, even as we reduce deficits through entitlement and tax reform, we must carefully prioritize spending. As the bipartisan majority report of the Bowles-Simpson National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform recognized, a deficit plan should:

“... cut red tape and unproductive government spending that hinders job creation and growth. At the same time, we must invest in education, infrastructure, and high-value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for businesses to create jobs.”

The Bowles-Simpson plan specifically calls for devoting a portion of savings from cuts in wasteful spending to additional investments in these areas.

Now is the time to act. As national leaders in higher education, we urge the Committee and the Congress to move past contention and to reach a bipartisan compromise to bring the national debt under control and create a pathway for long-term economic growth. The Joint Select Committee has a historic opportunity to craft a balanced proposal that is at once bold, sensible, and forward-thinking. The choices will not be easy, but throughout our nation's history, American leaders have risen to great challenges. We offer you any assistance our universities can provide and wish you the very best in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson, President  
Association of Public and Land-grant  
Universities

Hunter R. Rawlings III, President  
Association of American Universities

Michael F. Adams, President  
The University of Georgia

Stan L. Albrecht, President  
Utah State University

Paula Allen-Meares, Chancellor  
University of Illinois at Chicago

James H. Ammons, President  
Florida A&M University

Charles R. Bantz, Chancellor  
Indiana University-Purdue University  
Indianapolis

James F. Barker, President  
Clemson University

Eric Barron, President  
The Florida State University

Mark P. Becker, President  
Georgia State University

Donald L. Beggs, President  
Wichita State University

Ronald Berkman, President  
Cleveland State University

Gene D. Block, Chancellor  
University of California, Los Angeles

Lee C. Bollinger, President  
Columbia University

Linda P. Brady, Chancellor  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

A. John Bramley, Interim President  
The University of Vermont

Dean L. Bresciani, President  
North Dakota State University

Richard H. Brodhead, President  
Duke University

Thomas Buchanan, President  
University of Wyoming

Eli Capilouto, President  
University of Kentucky

Robert L. Caret, President  
University of Massachusetts

Jean-Lou Chameau, President  
California Institute of Technology

Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Rita Hartung Cheng, Chancellor  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

David L. Chicoine, President  
South Dakota State University

James P. Clements, President  
West Virginia University

Jared Cohon, President  
Carnegie Mellon University

Mary Sue Coleman, President  
University of Michigan

France A. Córdoba, President  
Purdue University

Robert A. Corrigan, President  
San Francisco State University

Barbara Couture, President  
New Mexico State University

Scott Cowen, President  
Tulane University

Michael M. Crow, President  
Arizona State University

Waded Cruzado, President  
Montana State University

Ronald J. Daniels, President  
The Johns Hopkins University

Brady J. Deaton, Chancellor  
University of Missouri

Joe DiPietro, President  
The University of Tennessee

Philip P. DiStefano, Chancellor  
University of Colorado Boulder

David M Dooley, President  
The University of Rhode Island

Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor  
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

John M. Dunn, President  
Western Michigan University

Royce C. Engstrom, President  
The University of Montana

Paul W. Ferguson, President  
The University of Maine

Elson S. Floyd, President  
Washington State University

Daniel M. Fogel, Former President  
The University of Vermont

Carol Z. Garrison, President  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

G. David Gearhart, Chancellor  
University of Arkansas

E. Gordon Gee, President  
The Ohio State University

Gregory L. Geoffroy, President  
Iowa State University

Thomas F. George, Chancellor  
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Allan D. Gilmour, President  
Wayne State University

Jay Gogue, President  
Auburn University

Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor  
The City University of New York

Bernadette Gray-Little, Chancellor  
The University of Kansas

MRC Greenwood, President  
University of Hawaii System

V. Burns Hargis, President  
Oklahoma State University

Patrick T. Harker, President  
University of Delaware

Ann Weaver Hart, President  
Temple University

John L. Hennessy, President  
Stanford University

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
University of Hawaii Manoa

Elliot Hirshman, President  
San Diego State University

Susan Hockfield, President  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Michael J. Hogan, President  
University of Illinois

Robert C. Holub, Chancellor  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Mark W. Huddleston, President  
University of New Hampshire

Marc A. Johnson, President  
University of Nevada, Reno

Eric Kaler, President  
University of Minnesota

Mark E. Keenum, President  
Mississippi State University

Renu Khator, Chancellor  
University of Houston System,  
President, University of Houston

William E. Kirwan, Chancellor  
University System of Maryland

Robert W. Kustra, President  
Boise State University

Richard W. Lariviere, President  
University of Oregon

David Leebron, President  
Rice University

Lester A. Lefton, President  
Kent State University

Richard Levin, President  
Yale University

R. Bowen Loftin, President  
Texas A&M University

Wallace D. Loh, President  
University of Maryland

J. Bernard Machen, President  
University of Florida

C. Peter Magrath, President  
Binghamton University, SUNY

Sally Mason, President  
The University of Iowa

Richard L. McCormick, President  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Michael A. McRobbie, President  
Indiana University

Gary L. Miller, Chancellor  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

James B. Milliken, President  
University of Nebraska

Leo E. Morton, Chancellor  
University of Missouri-Kansas City

Glenn D. Mroz, President  
Michigan Technological University

M. Duane Nellis, President  
University of Idaho

Mortimer H. Neufville, Interim President  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

C. L. Max Nikias, President  
University of Southern California

Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor  
University of Pittsburgh

Stephen J. Owens, Interim President  
University of Missouri System

Harris Pastides, President  
University of South Carolina

John G. Peters, President  
Northern Illinois University

Bud Peterson, President  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Glenn Poshard, President  
Southern Illinois University

Shirley C. Raines, President  
The University of Memphis

James R. Ramsey, President  
University of Louisville

V. Lane Rawlins, President  
University of North Texas

Edward J. Ray, President  
Oregon State University

Charles B. Reed, Chancellor  
California State University

Kevin P. Reilly, President  
University of Wisconsin System

Brian Rogers, Chancellor  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Tom Ross, President  
The University of North Carolina

Gary D. Russi, President  
Oakland University

Eugene Sander, President  
The University of Arizona

E. Joseph Savoie, President  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

David Schmidly, President  
The University of New Mexico

Kirk H. Schulz, President  
Kansas State University

Joel Seligman, President  
University of Rochester

Allen Sessoms, President  
University of the District of Columbia

John Sexton, President  
New York University

Ruth Simmons, President  
Brown University

Lou Anna Simon, President  
Michigan State University

David J. Skorton, President  
Cornell University

Barbara R. Snyder, President  
Case Western Reserve University

Graham Spanier, President  
The Pennsylvania State University

James D. Spaniolo, President  
The University of Texas at Arlington

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., President  
Stony Brook University, SUNY

Teresa A. Sullivan, President  
University of Virginia

Holden Thorp, Chancellor  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Shirley M. Tilghman, President  
Princeton University

Satish Tripathi, President  
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Arthur C. Vailas, President  
Idaho State University

James W. Wagner, President  
Emory University

David Ward, Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

John D. Welty, President  
California State University, Fresno

Robert A. Wharton, President  
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Wim Wiewel, President  
Portland State University

Gregory H. Williams, President  
University of Cincinnati

David Wilson, President  
Morgan State University

Phyllis Wise, Chancellor  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Warren K. Wray, Interim Chancellor  
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Mark S. Wrighton, Chancellor  
Washington University in St. Louis

Henry T. Yang, Chancellor  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Michael K. Young, President  
University of Washington

Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor  
Vanderbilt University

Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor  
State University of New York

cc: Speaker of the House John Boehner  
House Majority Leader Eric Cantor  
House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer  
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin  
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell