



Professor Vesna Vucinic Neskovic
Chair
World Council of
Anthropological Associations

May 15, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3508

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0523

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
203 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, House Majority Leader McCarthy, and House Republican Head McMorris Rogers:

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) has always appreciated the support the Committee on Science, Space and Technology has given to the field of science and technology at large, its history of working with the scientific community to create a shared vision for the future, and its adherence of strong and sustained funding to reach these goals.

However, on behalf of the WCAA, I am now writing to express deep concern about the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1806) – a bill that would set arbitrary funding levels for the National Science Foundation’s research directorates and impose a massive 45% cut on the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE), effectively eliminating grant funding for anthropology and the other social sciences.

As an organization representing over 40 anthropological associations throughout the world, the WCAA, for which I speak as its current chair, can safely say the whole world of social science is watching with keen interest, as the implications of this Act would adversely affect the important role that the social, behavioral, and economic sciences play in advancing our basic understanding of our world. With a planet whose population, political, and economic systems are increasingly interconnected, it would be unwise to cut the NSF’s investment in social science research nearly in half. We also believe it is ill-advised to leave it up to Congress to determine which categories of science funding should be increased and which

should be cut, and strongly urge you to allow the NSF to decide its own directorate funding through its highly regarded merit review process – which is the envy of the world.

It is our hope that, under your leadership, a strong reauthorization bill for the science agencies will again set forth a robust vision and further the important work being done worldwide by all the disciplines in the field of science and technology.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Sincerely,



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