

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND POWER

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

CO-CHAIR:

COALITION FOR AUTISM
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON ROBOTICS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

MIKE DOYLE
14TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
401 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2637 EAST CARSON STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15203
(412) 390-1499

11 DUFF ROAD
PENN HILLS, PA 15235
(412) 241-6055

627 LYSLE BOULEVARD
MCKEESPORT, PA 15132
(412) 664-4049

June 28, 2012

John P. Holdren
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street Room 5228
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren:

We have followed with great interest the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's ongoing examination of policies to promote public access to federally funded research. We believe that greater transparency of taxpayer funded research is critical to ensuring continued U.S. leadership in scientific innovation and academic research. We also believe that public access policies would allow students nationwide to access a broader array of academic works through university libraries that have suffered from reduced funding. Accordingly, we urge the OSTP to act quickly to make federally funded research more accessible to academics, university students, and the American taxpayer.

We write today to emphasize the demonstrated, immediate need for public access policies at U.S. federal agencies. A growing number of experts indicate that the U.S. is rapidly falling behind in global leadership in the sciences. Reports demonstrate that from 1996 to 2008, the United States dropped 20 percent relative to other nations in its share of scientific journal publications. While we believe a continued commitment to research and development is an important component of investment in U.S. economic competitiveness, the added value of making research publicly available is that it can exponentially increase collaboration and intelligent knowledge sourcing among researchers. Public access policies can help to boost the value of academic works by exposing them to larger audiences and increasing the potential for citations.

Public access policies for government-funded research have been functioning successfully for several years outside of the U.S., at the Research Councils United Kingdom, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, as well as domestically at the National Institutes of Health. Public access policies for faculty research have

also been in place for years at dozens of renowned universities in the United States, including Harvard University, Stanford University, University of Kansas, Carnegie Mellon University, Duke University, and many others. Such policies are not based in *avant-garde* ideas. They are well-tested, common sense efforts that have not led to any known reports of job losses or financial cutbacks in the publishing industry. On the other hand, they have received the utmost praise of innovators and researchers whose access to that data expands the value of federal R&D investment.

Further, we believe simply that taxpayers who fund research should be able to have access to research results. While we value the editorial contributions of the publishing industry in producing a final research product, we do not support keeping publicly funded research behind expensive paywalls that force the public to pay twice for access to research.

Support for public access policies is widespread and growing. As you are likely aware, last month, a petition in support of public access policies on the White House's *We The People* website received, over the course of less than two weeks, more than 25,000 signatures – enough to prompt White House consideration. In addition, public access is supported by over 130 university and college presidents and provosts, as well as libraries, countless student organizations, renowned scientists including 52 Nobel laureates, as well as a growing number of forward-looking university, commercial, and nonprofit publishers. Importantly, a recent legislative effort aimed to limit public access policies and roll back the National Institutes of Health's already established PubMed Central repository met with overwhelming public opposition and was ultimately withdrawn.

Given the critical nature of public access to encourage continued U.S. leadership in the sciences, we urge the OSTP to direct federal agencies to implement public access policies and promote the broadest possible return on taxpayer investment in academic research.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

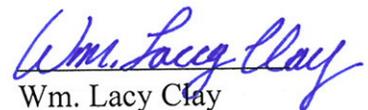
Sincerely,



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



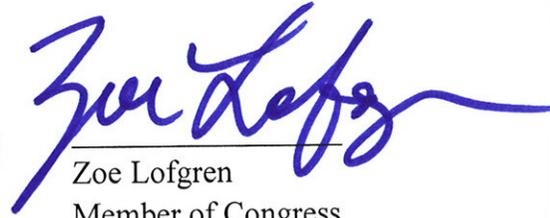
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



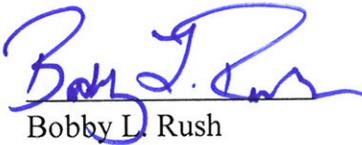
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



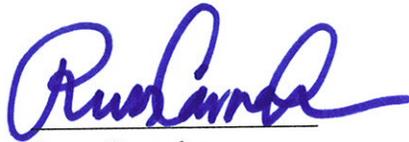
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Ron Paul
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress

cc: Tom Kalil
Carl Weiman
Michael Stebbins