November 26, 2013

The Honorable Rob Portman  
U.S. Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of Case Western Reserve University, The Ohio State University, and University of Cincinnati—the three largest research universities in Ohio—we strongly encourage Congress and the budget conferees to reach a bipartisan budget agreement for fiscal year (FY) 2014 that eliminates sequestration and provides stable funding for federal research and education programs. For the past three years, domestic discretionary programs, including federal research and student aid, have been reduced, negatively affecting students and faculty on our campuses. Should this trend continue, not only will it affect the next generation of science and discovery; it will slow the job growth in Ohio and harm the innovation capacity of both Ohio and the nation.

Like other U.S. research institutions, Ohio’s premier universities benefit immensely from federal investments in research and education programs. Each year, our institutions receive over $967 million for federally-funded research. In turn, these funds are put to use in world-class labs, clinical trials networks, energy innovation centers, training hospitals, cancer treatment centers, materials science and manufacturing initiatives, community health research programs and much more. Sequestration severely hampers these investments, reducing necessary funds and disrupting important research.

We are at a pivotal moment where the decisions we make now will affect the long-term economic stability for the state of Ohio and the nation. Sequestration is not a viable solution to our fiscal difficulties. We strongly urge you to pursue a bipartisan budget agreement for FY 2014 that eliminates sequestration and provides stable funding for federal research and education programs. Making key investments now in research and education programs will help the U.S. achieve stability by producing technological innovations and training the next generation of the American workforce.

Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you and your staff as you work through these challenging fiscal issues.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Snyder  
President  
Case Western Reserve University

Joseph A. Alutto  
Interim President  
The Ohio State University

Santa J. Ono  
President  
University of Cincinnati