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February 11, 2009

Sent to House and Senate conferees  
Washington, D.C.

**RE: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

Dear:

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I write to urge your continued support for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This legislation provides critical investments needed to spur economic recovery in the short term and sets the stage for our long-term economic growth.

Among the many important provisions contained in the bill, I wish to highlight the importance of several provisions that acknowledge and support the role of graduate education and science as key elements of our national talent development policy. The future innovators, knowledge creators, teachers, faculty and leaders will be prepared in U.S. graduate schools; support for graduate education across all disciplines, especially in science, is essential to both our short-term and long term growth.

In the conference committee negotiations, we ask that you specifically support:

- The provisions providing \$2.5 billion for the Research and Related Activities account at the National Science Foundation (NSF) as written in the House version of the legislation.
- The funding level of \$100 million for the Education and Human Resources division of NSF as written in the House version. We support the Senate Appropriations Committee report recommendation that these funds be used for programs such master's degrees for science and math teachers as well as for a new Professional Science Master's (PSM) program at NSF, as authorized by the America COMPETES Act.
- Additional funding for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, as contained in the Senate bill, will ensure that America remains at the forefront of life-saving research in this age of increasing global competitiveness.
- Funding for basic research in physical sciences at the Department of Energy Office of Science at the levels written in the House version.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation and the much needed investment in the future prosperity of the United States.

Regards,

Debra W. Stewart  
President

AFFILIATES

Conference  
of Southern  
Graduate Schools

Northeastern  
Association  
of Graduate Schools

Midwestern  
Association  
of Graduate Schools

Western  
Association  
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