

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and

Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa Delauro
Ranking Member

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and

Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member Delauro,

We respectfully request that you support a fiscal year 2014 appropriation of \$20 million for the University Sustainability Program, a competitive grant program authorized as part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (PL 110-315, Title VIII, Part U) and recognized as one of six invitational priorities in the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education account of the FY2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Once funded, the University Sustainability Program will provide competitive grants to colleges and universities to establish sustainability programs and direct the Department of Education to establish high-quality sustainability programs. The program is supported by over 300 colleges and university presidents, several dozen national environmental and education organizations, and twenty five major higher education associations.

Investments in sustainability education are critical for short-term job creation as well as long-term economic growth. According to economist Dr. Robert Pollin, government spending on educational services generates significantly more jobs (23.1 jobs per \$1 million dollars in spending) than spending on almost any other sector. Public investment in sustainability education is a direct investment in America's competitiveness in the changing global marketplace.

As population growth, urban development and extreme weather incidents place greater stress on ecosystems around the globe, the need for developing innovative and successful practices is critical to sustaining our economic competitiveness, environmental health and strong communities. Embedding sustainability in higher education will expand opportunities for all Americans by giving them the knowledge and skills to participate in our increasingly challenging

global economy, and by allowing those who are unemployed or under-employed to pursue careers in the emerging green economy.


Funding the University Sustainability Program will help colleges and universities equip a new generation of Americans for the 21st century economy, and pave the way for new technologies and industries that will drive the U.S. economy for decades to come.

We thank you for considering this important request.

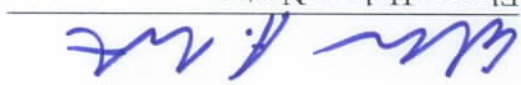
Sincerely,


Earl Blumenauer

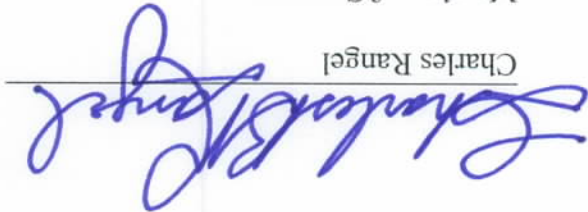
Member of Congress


Rush Holt

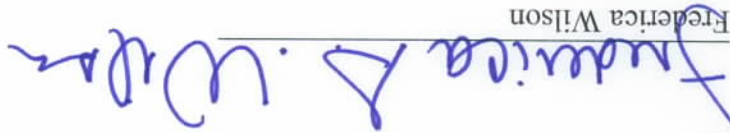
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton

Member of Congress


Charles Rangel

Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson

Member of Congress