June 4, 2025

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senator

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

The Honorable Jeff Crank
Member of Congress

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

The Honorable Jason Crow
Member of Congress

The Honorable Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress

The Honorable Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

The Honorable Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

The Honorable Gabe Evans
Member of Congress

Dear Colorado Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of Colorado's research universities, we are writing to you today to emphasize the importance of facility and administrative (F&A) costs, also referred to as indirect costs, to research and innovation in our state. These costs support the physical and operational backbone of research necessary to ensure Colorado remains a national leader in developing new technologies, discovering cures and treatments for disease, and improving quality of life for all Americans.

Our institutions are advancing the frontiers of scientific and biomedical research thanks to our partnerships with federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Departments of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, Interior and more. University-based scientific research in partnership with the federal government is a driving economic force within our state, providing thousands of jobs for Coloradans and spinning out new innovations, technologies, and companies.

Federally negotiated indirect cost rates reimburse our institutions for a portion of the actual costs required to support research. These include world-class laboratories and facilities, high-speed

data processing, lab maintenance, utilities, and the administrative infrastructure needed to comply with federally required research security, safety, and reporting requirements. Research at our institutions drives innovations that benefit all Americans. For example:

- **Colorado School of Mines**: Researchers have developed innovative techniques to improve the efficiency and longevity of enhanced geothermal systems, unlocking new sources of economic domestic energy.

- **Colorado State University**: Researchers are partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture to establish new avenues for detecting the Avian flu in cattle.

- **Colorado State University Pueblo**: Research on hydrogen and natural gas is transforming rural transportation innovation.

- **University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**: Researchers have created an FDA-approved pill to treat patients with chronic Lymphoma.

- **University of Colorado Boulder**: Scientists are partnering with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to lead the country in quantum research and workforce development.

- **University of Colorado Colorado Springs**: Research on cyanobacterium is being used to develop natural sunscreen, improved fertilizer formulas and biofuels.

- **University of Colorado Denver**: Researchers are studying the behavior of the Earth's ionosphere, which can impact and even knock out the power grid.

- **University of Denver**: Engineers have developed a new, miniature elliptical dichroism spectrometer that is used to detect cancer cells.

- **University of Northern Colorado**: Investigators are studying the therapeutic efficacy and mechanism of cannabidiol and cannabigerol in treating nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, a leading cause of chronic liver disease.

Without reimbursement of the indirect costs for federal research on our campuses, these therapies and technologies would not have happened, and Coloradans and Americans would not benefit from these advancements.

As research universities, we are deeply committed to maximizing the impact of taxpayer investments in federally funded research. To support this shared goal, the academic and research

community is working to identify strategies to cut red tape and bolster science, technology, and innovation. Abrupt across the board changes to indirect cost rates would have a devastating impact on the ability of our world-renowned scientists to achieve scientific breakthroughs. Any changes to rates or the current model should account for the true costs of conducting research, including the human and physical infrastructure that cannot be supported on an ad hoc basis.

We encourage Congress to prevent any federal agency from instituting a flat indirect cost rate without consulting Congress and going through regular order. We also ask that Congress partner with the scientific community to evolve and improve upon this system.

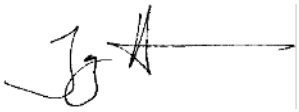
As the conversations regarding indirect cost rates continue in Washington, please look to our institutions as a resource and partner to maintain American competitiveness and to ensure Colorado remains at the forefront of research and scientific discoveries.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Johnson, Ph.D.
President
Colorado School of Mines

Tony Frank, Ph.D
Chancellor
Colorado State University

Todd Saliman
President
University of Colorado



Jeremey Haefner, Ph.D.
Chancellor
University of Denver

Andrew Feinstein, Ph.D.
President
University of Northern Colorado