

February 6, 2012

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

Dear Senator Cornyn,

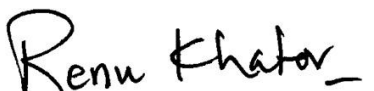
As the chancellors of Texas' six public higher education systems, we write in support of the Federal Research Public Access Act. The proposed legislation takes a measured approach: acknowledging the value of federally funded research in driving forward our nation's economic competitiveness and ensuring federally funded research is made public in a timely manner. As institutions dedicated to educating and training the next generation of researchers and scientists, we recognize that promulgating scientific knowledge benefits our communities, the State of Texas, and the nation.

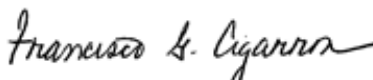
As you know, the unique government-university research nexus has kept the nation at the forefront of scientific discovery for decades. Underpinning this successful relationship is the public's expectation that their support will help improve society. Our universities and federal support for research exist to advance the public good. By working with federal agencies to disseminate research results, universities can expand the impact of discovery and encourage additional scientific gains.


The volume of federally funded research conducted at our institutions has afforded us unique insight into the challenges posed by improving access to knowledge generated with federal support. We realize that the best way forward will require input from diverse stakeholders. To this end, please consider our campuses a resource during your work to sustain the nation's research enterprise.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Texas' higher education systems.

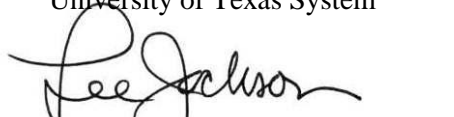
Sincerely,

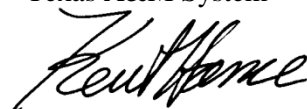

Renu Khator
Chancellor
University of Houston System


Francisco Cigarroa, M. D.
Chancellor
University of Texas System


John Sharp
Chancellor
Texas A&M System


Brian McCall
Chancellor
Texas State University System


Lee Jackson
Chancellor
University of North Texas System


Kent Hance
Chancellor
Texas Tech System