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July 15th, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to strike Section 550 from the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, which would prohibit funding to implement the Office of Science and Technology Policy's August 25, 2022, memorandum ensuring free, immediate access to federally funded research.

SPARC is a non-profit advocacy organization that supports systems for research and education that enable everyone, everywhere to access, contribute to, and benefit from sharing knowledge. Our membership includes more than 200 libraries and academic organizations across the U.S. spanning 45 states. We believe that everyone should be able to access and contribute to the knowledge that shapes our world.

Scientific breakthroughs that improve lives and drive innovation are rarely the result of a single discovery. Instead, they emerge from a continuum of research, built upon layers of scientific findings and rigorous analysis. When taxpayers fund research through federal agencies, they should not be required to pay again to access the publications and data resulting from that research.

Broad access to the products of research investments—whether in the form of data, results, or products—is the engine that drives innovation. When research findings are freely accessible, they can be more readily built upon by other researchers, accelerating the pace of discovery and maximizing the return on public investment.

Rather than blocking open access requirements, we should focus on addressing legitimate concerns about cost structures - including publication expenses - to ensure that access to publicly funded research is available while protecting taxpayers from unreasonable costs.

This approach maintains our commitment to transparency and accessibility while exercising responsible stewardship of public funds—a balanced solution that advances American innovation and serves the American people.

Section 550 would undermine decades of bipartisan progress toward making federally funded research freely accessible to the public that paid for it. Instead of restricting access, we should continue working to ensure that taxpayers receive the full benefit of their research investments through policies that promote transparency, accelerate innovation, and provide equitable access to scientific discoveries.

I respectfully urge you to strike Section 550 from the appropriations bill and continue supporting policies that maximize public access to federally funded research.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

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