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NEWS RELEASE

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Reach “A Big Agreement – Not Incremental Steps” on Deficit Reduction University Leaders Urge Congress

WASHINGTON, DC (September 21, 2011) – More than 130 university presidents and chancellors representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia sent a letter today to the members of the Congressional Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction urging them to reach “a big agreement – not incremental steps” while working to close the nation’s budget deficit.

The university leaders also called on the committee to “reach a balanced agreement that reduces budget deficits, reins in the nation’s debt, and creates economic and job growth.” The budget agreement should focus on entitlement and tax reform, rather than further cuts to domestic discretionary spending, the university leaders said. Reductions to date have been from domestic discretionary expenditures.

Domestic discretionary spending “is not the primary cause of our rising debt. Imprudent additional reductions in domestic discretionary expenditures and other federal programs that train the next generation risk undermining our nation’s human capital, infrastructure, technological, and scientific needs,” according to the university leaders.

The letter was organized by the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, whose presidents also signed the letter.

[Text of Letter to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#)

The university leaders who signed the letter include:

Peter McPherson, President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Hunter R. Rawlings III, President, Association of American Universities
Michael F. Adams, President, The University of Georgia
Stan L. Albrecht, President, Utah State University
Paula Allen-Meares, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago

James H. Ammons, President, Florida A&M University
Charles R. Bantz, Chancellor, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
James F. Barker, President, Clemson University
Eric Barron, President, The Florida State University
Mark P. Becker, President, Georgia State University
Donald L. Beggs, President, Wichita State University
Ronald Berkman, President, Cleveland State University
Gene D. Block, Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles
Lee C. Bollinger, President, Columbia University
Linda P. Brady, Chancellor, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
A. John Bramley, Interim President, The University of Vermont
Dean L. Bresciani, President, North Dakota State University
Richard H. Brodhead, President, Duke University
Thomas Buchanan, President, University of Wyoming
Eli Capilouto, President, University of Kentucky
Robert L. Caret, President, University of Massachusetts
Jean-Lou Chameau, President, California Institute of Technology
Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Rita Hartung Cheng, Chancellor, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
David L. Chicoine, President, South Dakota State University
James P. Clements, President, West Virginia University
Jared Cohon, President, Carnegie Mellon University
Mary Sue Coleman, President, University of Michigan
France A. Córdoba, President, Purdue University
Robert A. Corrigan, President, San Francisco State University
Barbara Couture, President, New Mexico State University
Scott Cowen, President, Tulane University
Michael M. Crow, President, Arizona State University
Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University
Ronald J. Daniels, President, The Johns Hopkins University
Brady J. Deaton, Chancellor, University of Missouri
Joe DiPietro, President, The University of Tennessee
Philip P. DiStefano, Chancellor, University of Colorado Boulder
David M Dooley, President, The University of Rhode Island
Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
John M. Dunn, President, Western Michigan University
Royce C. Engstrom, President, The University of Montana
Paul W. Ferguson, President, The University of Maine
Elson S. Floyd, President, Washington State University
Daniel M. Fogel, Former President, The University of Vermont
G. David Gearhart, Chancellor, University of Arkansas
E. Gordon Gee, President, The Ohio State University
Gregory L. Geoffroy, President, Iowa State University
Thomas F. George, Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Allan D. Gilmour, President, Wayne State University
Jay Gogue, President, Auburn University
Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor, The City University of New York
Bernadette Gray-Little, Chancellor, The University of Kansas
MRC Greenwood, President, University of Hawaii System
V. Burns Hargis, President, Oklahoma State University
Patrick T. Harker, President, University of Delaware
Ann Weaver Hart, President, Temple University
John L. Hennessy, President, Stanford University
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor, University of Hawaii Manoa
Elliot Hirshman, President, San Diego State University
Susan Hockfield, President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Michael J. Hogan, President, University of Illinois
Robert C. Holub, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Mark W. Huddleston, President, University of New Hampshire
Marc A. Johnson, President, University of Nevada, Reno
Eric Kaler, President, University of Minnesota
Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University
Renu Khator, Chancellor, University of Houston System, & President, University of Houston
William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland
Robert W. Kustra, President, Boise State University
Richard W. Lariviere, President, University of Oregon
David Leebron, President, Rice University
Lester A. Lefton, President, Kent State University
Richard Levin, President, Yale University
R. Bowen Loftin, President, Texas A&M University
Wallace D. Loh, President, University of Maryland
J. Bernard Machen, President, University of Florida
C. Peter Magrath, President, Binghamton University, SUNY
Sally Mason, President, The University of Iowa
Richard L. McCormick, President, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Michael A. McRobbie, President, Indiana University
Gary L. Miller, Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
James B. Milliken, President, University of Nebraska
Leo E. Morton, Chancellor, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Glenn D. Mroz, President, Michigan Technological University
M. Duane Nellis, President, University of Idaho
Mortimer H. Neufville, Interim President, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
C. L. Max Nikias, President, University of Southern California
Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Stephen J. Owens, Interim President, University of Missouri System
Harris Pastides, President, University of South Carolina
John G. Peters, President, Northern Illinois University
Bud Peterson, President, Georgia Institute of Technology
Glenn Poshard, President, Southern Illinois University
Shirley C. Raines, President, The University of Memphis
James R. Ramsey, President, University of Louisville
V. Lane Rawlins, President, University of North Texas
Edward J. Ray, President, Oregon State University
Charles B. Reed, Chancellor, California State University
Kevin P. Reilly, President, University of Wisconsin System
Brian Rogers, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Tom Ross, President, The University of North Carolina
Gary D. Russi, President, Oakland University
Eugene Sander, President, The University of Arizona
E. Joseph Savoie, President, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
David Schmidly, President, The University of New Mexico
Kirk H. Schulz, President, Kansas State University
Joel Seligman, President, University of Rochester
Allen Sessoms, President, University of the District of Columbia
John Sexton, President, New York University
Ruth Simmons, President, Brown University
Lou Anna Simon, President, Michigan State University
David J. Skorton, President, Cornell University
Barbara R. Snyder, President, Case Western Reserve University
Graham Spanier, President, The Pennsylvania State University
James D. Spaniolo, President, The University of Texas at Arlington
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., President, Stony Brook University, SUNY

Teresa A. Sullivan, President, University of Virginia
Holden Thorp, Chancellor, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Shirley M. Tilghman, President, Princeton University
Satish Tripathi, President, University at Buffalo, SUNY
Arthur C. Vailas, President, Idaho State University
James W. Wagner, President, Emory University
David Ward, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
John D. Welty, President, California State University, Fresno
Robert A. Wharton, President, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Wim Wiewel, President, Portland State University
Gregory H. Williams, President, University of Cincinnati
David Wilson, President, Morgan State University
Phyllis Wise, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Warren K. Wray, Interim Chancellor, Missouri University of Science and Technology
Mark S. Wrighton, Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis
Henry T. Yang, Chancellor, University of California, Santa Barbara
Michael K. Young, President, University of Washington
Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor, Vanderbilt University
Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York