

Council of Presidents New England Land-Grant Universities

105 Main Street, Thompson Hall Durham, NH 03824-3509 603-862-2450

- University of Connecticut
- University of Maine
- University of Massachusetts
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Vermont

November 1, 2009

Dear Senator Lieberman,

As the presidents of the six public land-grant universities in New England, we are writing to you in support of the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2009. Our universities enroll over 100,000 students. They confer about 17% of the bachelor's degrees and 20% of the doctoral degrees in New England. Collectively they invest more than \$700 million per year on research, largely with the support of federal grants.

Dissemination of results is an essential component of the land-grant tradition of research and of our investment in science. We share your concern that far too often the results of research funded by the U.S. government are not broadly available to researchers, scientists, and members of the public. In addition to ensuring that this research is made available quickly, it is also critical that the published information remain broadly available for future use. We are pleased to see that your bill is designed to support both early, as well as long-term, access to scientific research results.

Online public access to publicly funded research facilitates the candid discussion needed to accelerate research, share knowledge, improve treatment of diseases, and increase human understanding. Our nation is making important progress in advancing this goal, enacting both the first U.S. requirement for public access to publicly funded research through the National Institutes of Health in 2008 – promising to make openly available, after an embargo, the results of \$29 billion in taxpayer-funded research – and several campus-based policies for research access.

Your bill is a much-needed step in truly realizing open, public access to research, and in enabling our institutions' capacities for building upon prior findings and accelerating the pace of discovery. We look forward to working with you to secure the bill's passage.

The presidents whose names appear below hereby endorse the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2009. The deans and directors of the universities' libraries also strongly endorse the Act.



Michael J. Hogan, President
University of Connecticut



Robert A. Kennedy, President
University of Maine



Robert C. Holub, Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Amherst



Mark W. Huddleston
University of New Hampshire



David Dooley, President
University of Rhode Island



Daniel M. Fogel, President
University of Vermont