August 3, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Collins,

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), a nonprofit membership organization of 127 research libraries and archives in major public and private universities, federal government agencies, and large public institutions in the US and Canada, I am writing to express the Association’s opposition to Section 552 of the House Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, which would prevent American taxpayers from immediately accessing the results of more than $90 billion in scientific research that the US government funds each year. ARL urges you to not include this section in any final legislation.

Immediate access to taxpayer-funded research facilitates the acceleration of advances in curing disease, in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters, in improving public wellbeing, and in growing the economy by putting federally funded research in the hands of scientists, communities, and entreprenuers. Research libraries are key partners within their institutions, the research enterprise, and with federal agencies in providing access to information and building infrastructure and services to support the implementation of the 2022 Office of Science & Technology Policy memo guidance.
By removing the language that bars implementation of this important guidance, you will ensure taxpayers can immediately access the results of research they fund. ARL urges Congress to remove Section 552 from the CJS Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

M. L. Kennedy

Mary Lee Kennedy, Executive Director