



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Office of the President

October 5, 2016

Dear Colleague:

In the few short months that I have been president of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), several revelations have surprised me. The most important is how much of the NAS mission to advance science, inform public policy, advise the nation, and honor our best and brightest depends on the generosity of donors. The gap between direct revenue from program support and the cost to achieve our mission is real and in many cases growing. I hope you will join me this year in providing financial support to help the non-profit NAS change peoples' lives for the better.

Beyond our role as an honorific society, as chartered independent, objective advisors to the nation, our voice has never been more needed for the continued health and well-being of our nation and the planet. Your support will enable us to deepen interdisciplinary connections among the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; explore new ways to engage the public on critical issues related to science, technology, and health; produce timely and relevant policy studies; and forge international scientific partnerships. Without flexible funding from charitable contributions, the NAS is unable to anticipate future issues and initiate important new studies for which external funding is not yet available.

For example, private funds supported the landmark reports *America's Climate Choices* and *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*. More recently, unrestricted support helped launch the Human Gene Editing Summit, in collaboration with the National Academy of Medicine, the Royal Society, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Unrestricted support also helps support the Committee on Human Rights, which uses the influence and stature of the Academies and their members in support of scientists, engineers, and health professionals anywhere in the world who have been subjected to severe repression for peacefully exercising their internationally recognized human rights.

The second revelation in the past few months is what excellent partners we have from the community of private foundations. In particular, the Simons Foundation has generously volunteered to match all gifts made to the Ralph J. and Carol M. Cicerone Endowment for the NAS Mission. For that reason, this year, in addition to making a gift to the NAS Annual Fund, which will have an immediate impact, please consider making a gift or a pledge to the Cicerone Endowment, which is an investment in science for the long term. That gift will be matched 1:1 by the Simons Foundation, and you may take up to three years from the date of a pledge to complete your commitment. The Cicerone Fund enables timely leadership on emerging issues in science through new programs and policy studies and will strengthen the independence of the Academy.

October 5, 2016
Page 2

Please join me in our goal to expand our reach and champion evidence-based policy. You can make a gift by visiting www.NASonline.org/giftform or by filling out the enclosed form. Your contribution and your participation will truly make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia McNutt". The signature is written in a cursive style. A long horizontal line extends from the end of the signature to the right.

Marcia McNutt
President

P.S. If you or your spouse were 70 or older as of July 2016, consider reducing your taxable income by using your IRA charitable rollover to support science in America. Your IRA gift will count toward your 2016 required minimum distribution.

Enclosure