March 16, 2021

Dear Chair Cantwell,

On behalf of the Research!America alliance, thank you for your leadership and demonstrated commitment to science and technology, as exemplified by your role as Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. We are writing to respectfully request that you support the nomination of Dr. Eric Lander to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Dr. Lander’s breadth of scientific expertise combined with his extraordinary leadership makes him a uniquely qualified candidate for this role. He is a world renowned scientist with expertise in mathematics, molecular biology, and genetics. He is no stranger to spearheading innovative research that yields strategic solutions to some of America’s leading health challenges. Over 100,000 discoveries connecting genetic material to disease traits can be credited to Dr. Lander’s research methodology.

Dr. Lander excels at distilling technical information and is well experienced in communicating and coordinating scientific knowledge across agencies. Having served as Co-Chair of President Obama’s President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and as a former member of the Department of Defense’s Defense Innovation Board, Dr. Lander has greatly contributed to the advancement of America’s science and technology enterprise, providing mission-critical thought leadership and guidance.

We agree with the importance of instituting policies and programs that will promote diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout OSTP. As the founding Director of the Broad Institute, Dr. Lander has helmed a highly respected research institute whose leadership and staff models gender and racial/ethnic diversity. The Institute has created partnerships that promote equity in research and empower identity-based affinity groups to succeed in STEMM careers. We are confident that if confirmed, Dr. Lander will continue to cultivate collaborative work environments that include the valuable perspectives of a diverse scientific community. Utilizing the varied expertise of those within the scientific community is critical to overcoming the challenges we face.

Dr. Lander’s nomination to be the head of OSTP illustrates the elevated importance of science and technology as our nation endeavors to recover from the devastation COVID-19 has wrought, while also simultaneously pushing new scientific and technological breakthroughs forward. We support President Biden’s nomination of Dr. Eric Lander to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology and hope that you will do the same.
Thank you Chair Cantwell, as well as your respective staff members, for your extraordinary commitment and hard work during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley
President & CEO
Research!America