May 6, 2011

The Honorable Alberta Darling  
The Honorable Robin Vos  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Finance  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
Room 305 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Vos:

We are professors, emeritus professors, and research directors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Each of us is also an elected member of the U.S. National Academies, including the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). As noted on the Academies’ web page: “NAS, NAE, and IOM members are among the world's most distinguished scientists, engineers, physicians, and researchers; more than 300 members are Nobel laureates. Members are elected in recognition of outstanding achievements, and membership is considered a high honor.”

We are proud to be affiliated with the UW-Madison but are deeply concerned that Wisconsin’s flagship university is sinking. We are convinced that the New Badger Partnership, including the proposed Public Authority status for UW-Madison (as articulated by Chancellor Biddy Martin: http://budget.wisc.edu/bucky-in-the-new-millennium/), will provide the UW-Madison the flexibility needed for its survival as a world class research and educational institution. We urge you and your committee to support this proposal in its entirety.

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Department of Biochemistry

Paul Ahlquist, Professor (NAS)  
Departments of Oncology, Molecular Virology and Plant Pathology  
Morgridge Institute for Research

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Richard Askey, Professor Emeritus (NAS)  
Department of Mathematics

R. Byron Bird, Professor Emeritus (NAE, NAS, National Medal of Science)  
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Larry Bumpass, Professor Emeritus (NAS)  
Department of Sociology
Patricia Flatley Brennan, Professor (IOM)  
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