March 4, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Comstock  The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
226 Cannon House Office Building  2468 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Lipinski  The Honorable Lamar Smith
2346 Rayburn House Office Building  2409 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Comstock, Representative Johnson, Representative Lipinski, and Representative Smith:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) thanks you for sponsoring the Research and Development Efficiency Act (H.R. 1119). FASEB supports this legislation that will establish a working group to review federal regulations affecting research universities in order to harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative regulations and reporting requirements.

In May 2014, the National Science Board (NSB) released its report on regulatory burden, Reducing Investigators’ Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research, which calls for the establishment of “a permanent high-level, inter-agency, inter-sector committee, with stakeholder and OMB/Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) representation.” H.R. 1119 establishes such a working group under the Office of Science and Technology Policy and mandates a process for stakeholder input. Additionally, the bill requires annual progress reports to Congress, ensuring effective oversight.

The NSB report has received broad support in the scientific and engineering community. This smart, no-cost legislation merits full consideration, both in Committee and on the House floor. FASEB would be pleased to work with you on H.R. 1119.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Haywood, PhD
FASEB President