



April 3, 2013

Doug Richardson
Executive Director
Association of American Geographers
1710 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Doug,

I am writing to thank you and the AAG for your past responsiveness and support as political science research has come under attack in the US Congress over funding at the National Science Foundation. We greatly appreciate the fact that we are all working together to respond to the challenges posed by the Coburn amendment to political science funding.

While the outcome was to put limits on the research topics on which political science funds can be expended, it was clear the intent was to eliminate all of the funding for political science research, and that the eventual targets are likely all of the social science programs. These issues pose real challenges for us all – in protecting funding for programs that we know are in the immediate and long-term national interest, and in assuring the independent and integrity of the scientific process in setting research agendas and selecting projects within our sciences. As in the past, we look forward to continuing to work with you to address these challenges, both through your role on the Executive Committee of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, and in many other venues.

Building on our discipline's own scholarship about how to be effective in Congress, we believe that a deliberate and focused approach is the necessary way to go forward to address these issues, an approach that avoids inflaming the situation with unnecessary rhetoric and that projects the message of what our sciences achieve for themselves and for all of scientific problem solving. While it is not warranted for us to be under attack as we have been, at the same time it is incumbent on us to be accountable for expressing the value of what we do for the public interest.

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Michael A. Brintnall, *Executive Director*

As you know, we have long been working with AAG and other social science associations on ways to get our message directly to members of Congress, both in Washington and in their home districts, to dispel misunderstanding and express the values of what we do. We are reaching out to a next generation of champions for our work on Capitol Hill. We are highlighting the contributions of our research to national issues through media contacts. We are building networks of academic institutions and scholarly societies and their leaders to speak on these issues. And, perhaps most importantly, we also urge our members to focus attention on their own representatives, particularly in the home districts where members of congress can get meaningful exposure to the value of what we do and its significance to their constituents.

Again, we value very much AAG's partnership, and experience, in these approaches and look forward to continuing to work together with you in these areas. I am looking forward to staying in close touch.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Brintnall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Michael Brintnall
Executive Director
American Political Science Association