

May 1, 2025
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned for research.

Our university system has been the envy of the world for nearly a century. It has attracted the world's most clever and ambitious people, spun off the world's most active startup industry, enabled dramatic breakthroughs in medicine, machines and materials while broadening human understanding. The effort has been cooperative with financial and research support from both government and industry. Over the past few months you have cut a thousand grants for reasons ranging from a phrase in the title to pressuring the host institution to toe your sadistic line. Government researchers have been fired en masse. Your lackeys in congress are preparing a budget cutting science funding by half. The scientific community is peripatetic and many will leave as many came in the aftermath of world war two and the soviet collapse but destroying this remarkable system will set back humanity significantly and US society dramatically.

Please assure me that you will support science.

My pride in the US derives in part from our universities.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson