

June 20, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tem
California State Senate

The Honorable Bob Huff
Minority Leader
California State Senate

Dear President pro Tem Steinberg and Minority Leader Huff,

We, the undersigned companies and organizations, are writing to express our support for the **Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act (AB 609)**. This bill will give Californians and the wider public, including researchers, patients, students, educators, journalists, inventors, and small businesses, better access to peer-reviewed scientific articles reporting on research funded by the State of California.

Improving access to this information will benefit Californians and California businesses. **AB 609** will advance the pace of discovery and speed the translation of knowledge into innovative new services and products. That, in turn, will fuel job creation in broad sectors of the economy, from agriculture to energy to medical technology.

AB 609 is a simple, cost-effective measure based on a proven model. Contrary to the claims of its opponents, this legislation would not result in millions of dollars in additional costs to California universities. It implements a model already proven by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which, in 2008, instituted a broad policy requiring public access to taxpayer-funded research after 12 months of publication. To date, over 2.4 million articles have been deposited in the NIH repository, PubMed Central. That policy has been widely celebrated by the public—with over 700,000 unique visitors to their online repository per day—and has not resulted in significant costs to universities or publishers.

AB 609 balances the interests of all stakeholders. By improving access to research outputs, it will facilitate innovation, improve education, accelerate scientific discovery, and fuel California's economy.

Access to research is good public policy and important legislation for California. We urge all members of the California State Senate to support the **Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act (AB 609)**.

Sincerely,

CREDO Action
Californians Aware
California Common Cause
eCitizens.org
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Engine Advocacy
Evari GIS Consulting, Inc
Google
Internet Archive

Measured Voice
New Media Rights
Open Knowledge Foundation America
Open Science Federation
PeerJ
PLoS
Public.Resource.Org
Public Knowledge
TechNet

cc: Senator Jerry Hill
Assemblymember Brian Nestande
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Mike Gatto