



May 21, 2013

Members
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 305 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Re: Budget Recommendation Permitting the University of Wisconsin System to Continue Participating in Internet Consortia

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

On behalf of Internet2, I am writing this letter to state our support of Governor Scott Walker's budget recommendation to allow the University of Wisconsin System to continue participating in advanced networking Internet consortia. This will allow the University to continue over 30 years of global leadership in the development and adoption of advanced Internet technologies. Internet2 is a member-owned advanced technology community founded by the nation's leading higher education institutions, including the University of Wisconsin System, in 1996. The existing requirements of W.S.A. § 36.585 would prevent the University of Wisconsin System from continuing to participate as a member of Internet2. The Governor's recommendation provides a necessary and much-welcomed correction to this restriction and will benefit the citizens of Wisconsin.

The University of Wisconsin System has long been recognized as one of the critical contributors responsible for the creation of the Internet. The University's faculty leaders championed the idea of interlinked networks over distance and prototyped those ideas in real-world settings that evolved into the Internet as we know it today. Those innovations have resulted in approximately \$4 trillion in annual global economic activity and have helped create high-tech jobs in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. Though the technologies that drive the development of the Internet forward are perpetually changing, one thing has remained constant over the years: the University of Wisconsin System's role as a leader in promoting the growth and evolution of the Internet.

Beyond its leadership role, the University of Wisconsin System also is recognized around the world as a major research institution because it has engaged in international collaborations in science, technology, and business. Research collaborations such as these are becoming increasingly global in nature and reliant upon advanced research networking consortia. For example, the Large Hadron Collider ("LHC"), located in Geneva, Switzerland, is the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator. Physicists in Wisconsin and throughout the nation depend upon the data from the LHC to conduct their research. Due to the enormous size of that data, only advanced research



networks such as Internet2 are capable of delivering the data in a timely fashion that is competitively relevant to Wisconsin researchers.

Network connectivity and global collaboration, however, are not the only reasons why it is crucial for the University of Wisconsin System to remain a member of Internet2. The University of Wisconsin System participates with other major universities through partnerships with commercial providers in the design and customization of large-scale network-based service offerings that support research and education. These cloud offerings are available at prices and configurations not available in the commercial market, and they are transforming the way universities teach, store, manage, and access information. These examples and countless other scientific and technological collaborations are essential to the research initiatives of the University of Wisconsin System and result in innumerable benefits.

Just as the University of Wisconsin System's success is fundamentally tied to its continued membership in Internet2, the quality and success of Internet2 is also dependent upon the continued membership of institutions such as those that make up the University of Wisconsin System. Research and education networks are particularly reliant upon the reach and extent of their networked members in order to achieve the types of advanced networking results that cutting edge science and technology innovation require. As just one example of the interconnected nature of research and education networks, the Open Science Grid is an open, distributed computing framework that relies on the ability of research and education institutions, such as the University of Wisconsin System, to be connected through multiple regional, national, and international networks. This allows these institutions to pool their available computing resources to tackle data-intensive problems related to nanotechnology, climate science, and high-energy physics, and other research issues. Without the University of Wisconsin System's continued participation, the other research and education institutions that are connected to and reliant upon it through Internet2 also may suffer.

Unless the Governor's proposal is adopted, as of July 1, 2013, W.S.A. § 36.585 would prohibit the University of Wisconsin System from continuing its participation or membership in certain third-party entities such as Internet2 and other research consortia. Thus, W.S.A. § 36.585 would, in effect, cut the University of Wisconsin System off from the advanced networking connectivity and cloud services that it requires to participate in innovative research. The current law also would undermine the University's ability to compete for new research grants and Wisconsin's competitiveness on the global stage. As a result, we strongly urge the State to adopt the Governor's budget recommendation and preserve the University of Wisconsin System's continued involvement in Internet consortia such as Internet2.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and please let us know if you have any questions.



Sincerely,

H. David Lambert
President & CEO

cc: Senator Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Representative John Nygren, Co-Chair
Senator Luther Olsen
Senator Sheila Harsdorf
Senator Joe Leibham
Senator Mary Lazich
Senator Glenn Grothman
Senator Jennifer Shilling
Senator Robert Wirth
Representative Pat Strachota
Representative Dale Kooyenga
Representative Dean Knudson
Representative Dan LeMahieu
Representative John Klenke
Representative Cory Mason
Representative Jon Richards
Representative Robin Vos, Speaker of the Assembly
Senator Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Majority Leader