



Robert L. Barchi, President

April 5, 2017

Mr. Kenneth Swalagin
University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
ASB III, Suite 110
Cook/Douglass Campus

Dear Mr. Swalagin:

I am writing in response to the University Senate's March 2017 resolution on Endorsing the March for Science, an event that will take place on April 22, 2017 in Washington, D.C., in at least two locations in New Jersey, and at other locations across the country.

As a scientist, I have a personal commitment to the principles of this demonstration. As the president of a research university, I have an obligation to advocate strenuously for federal policies that will promote the research enterprise at Rutgers and our peer institutions. I will be working throughout the weeks leading up to the march to highlight to public officials, policymakers and others the importance of scientific research to New Jersey and our nation, the need to foster a free exchange of data and ideas, and the need for adequate and continued funding of the agencies that support scientific inquiry.

I would encourage members of our community who share my sentiments to consider making their viewpoints known, either by marching or by some other show of support. If the University Senate would like to charter a bus and organize an itinerary for members of our community to travel to Washington, D.C. for the March for Science, my office can assist with transportation costs.

My support for the march, however, should not be construed as an expectation that any individual member of our community participate in this event. Indeed, our current political climate demands that our community encourage discussion of differing views and engagement with dissenting voices.

Thank you again for your resolution and your commitment to our University.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi

c: Barbara Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Peter J. McDonough Jr., Senior Vice President for External Affairs
Christopher Molloy, Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development