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To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair - National Academy Study on Improving Intelligence" <baruch@cmu.edu>, "Hon. Senator Mikulski" <senator@mikulski.senate.gov>

From: Lloyd Etheredge lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net

Subject: Recapitalizing academic social science

Dear Dr. Fischhoff & Members (and Senator Mikulski):

Your National Academy study might want to recommend recapitalizing academic social science. Senator Coburn's pending amendment, to terminate all NSF political science funding, would eliminate the final \$19 million. This is the amount available to 15,000 members of APSA, about half of it must go to university overhead, and the biggest share goes to one national (US) election survey that doesn't innovate very much (or test controversial ideas, like the Republican hierarchical psychodrama models of the citizen-government relationship.)

Although I interpret the problem in a different way, Senator Coburn is right: There is no persuasive evidence that the nation can rely upon the National Science Foundation's inherited, Bush-era leadership and funding level for evidence-based social science thinking about a changing world and the challenges we face.

De facto, the DNI's \$75 billion+/year budget is being organized, with a judgment of failed stewardship, as part of the package (also inherited from the Bush years) to terminate our nation's traditional model of relying upon academic social science at our leading research universities. I agree that Admiral Blair has a strong case about what his duty requires him to do. (To begin: the institutional and intellectual failures of academic macro-economics prior to the global economic crisis - which have not been corrected or even addressed by NSF or the National Academy of Sciences - and this is not a good sign.) And the institutional weakenings, demoralization, and failures of leadership are much deeper and wider.

However, you might want to recommend the recapitalization route. It could be preferable - across all social science fields - if (when?) the day comes that the DNI, President Obama, and Senator Mikulski and her colleagues receive persuasive evidence that the alarming breakdowns of integrity and deep/still uncorrected failures of the traditional "trust the nation's agenda-setting institutions for science and our academic research universities" model are understood and persuasively addressed.

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