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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regard to the plans to cut the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic by more than a half over the next three years. If realized, such severe cuts will surely endanger the existence of this critical element of the Czech science and research establishment. As a U.S. scientist who has had extremely productive collaborations with members of the Czech Academy, I believe that the proposed cuts would have a very negative impact on basic research in the Czech Republic, and would be harmful to scientific collaboration between the Czech Republic and other countries.

I was privileged to serve as a co-advisor to a young scientist who later became a staff member of the Czech Academy of Sciences, taking his place among a roster of world-class scientists. I have been deeply impressed by the quality of training, work ethic, productivity, and originality of my Czech colleagues and I believe that the Academy provides a critical home for their research programs. In addition to their past accomplishments, I believe many further achievements can be expected. As in the U.S., I believe that the success of these Academy scientists provides crucial motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research.

The severe restriction of the activities of the Academy of Sciences would run against the acknowledged fact that sustained long-term expansion of the economy is impossible without strong investments in science and research. Thankfully, the Obama administration has come to this conclusion and the Reinvestment Act has brought new support to basic scientific research in the U.S.

I am firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic. I urge the government to reconsider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at a level that will make this development possible.

Sincerely,

Bradley B. Sageman
Professor and Department Chair