but who collaborate, learn from, and depend on th

Scientists at the NIH must submit every requ

ticket, the government requires that there be a significant cost savings (more than 40% for domestic and non-foreign fares and more than 15% for international fares) to the government. (See http://www.hhs.gov/travel/policies/2012 policy manual.pdf) With the delay in approval, it is much harder for employees to find such savings, one federal scientist reports that his airfare incressed, on more than one occasion, by over \$300.00 because of the delay and eventual rise in the cost of non-refundable fares.

Conclusion

AAI has been concerned about the federal travel policy and related legislation for some time, and has expressed this concern in letters to Congressional leaders and in testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS), regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2013 and FY 2014 appropriations bills. On March 29, 2012, AAI said the following in testimony to the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee:

"Government scientists are valued members of our organization and contribute significantly to scientific advancement in the field. It is as important to AAI to have them attend our meetings as it is for them to attend. Dialogue and information exchange among scientists from government, academia, industry and private institutes is absolutely essential, and any barriers to the participation of government scientists undermines [sic] the best interests of science."

(http://aai.org/Public Affairs/Docs/2012/AAI FY2013 Roopenian House 2012-03-29.pdf)

In conclusion, we urge the members of this Committee and of the Congress to work with the scientific community to ensure that federally employed scientists are permitted to participate fully in the collaborative and educational activities that advance the scientific enterprise. AAI thanks the Committee for its interest in this matter and for considering the views of AAI.