



Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Postfach 10 10 62, 80084 München

## Open letter to the President of Harvard University

Alan M. Garber

president@harvard.edu

Munich, April 19, 2025

Dear President Garber,

I would like to express my strong support for you and your colleagues in the United States as you stand up for the independence of scientific institutions and for academic freedom. Your stance to recent threats sends a powerful message and will, I am sure, inspire others to speak out. It is for this reason that I write in the form of an open letter: to express not only my personal support, but also to make a public statement in defense of our shared fundamental values. We intend to publish this on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Threats to science anywhere are threats to science everywhere. In moments like these, we as scientists must stand united and raise our voices to defend science and reaffirm its vital role in society. It is science that has given us the technologies we rely on, the prosperity we enjoy, and the medical advances that save lives. After World War II, American science became a global engine of innovation—driving progress not only in the U.S., but around the world.

Transatlantic cooperation and the exchange of talent have been contributing to this remarkable achievement. A strong example is the longstanding collaboration between the Max Planck Society and U.S. institutions: today, we are engaged in ~1,000 joint research projects. About one-quarter of our publications—over 4,000 each year—are co-authored with American colleagues. During my recent visit to the United States, I met many fellow scientists who share our deep commitment to strengthening the transatlantic partnership, especially in these uncertain times.

We are united by core values: integrity, openness, and freedom. Together, we have expanded the frontiers of knowledge, tackled global challenges, and trained new generations of researchers. We have often done so with political support—and sometimes in spite of its absence. While political landscapes may shift, our shared ideals endure.

In this spirit, please accept my best wishes as you continue to lead through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Patrick Cramer

President, Max Planck Society