ICIAM

International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

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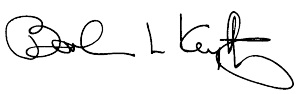
To Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin,
The President of Russian Federation

Dear Mr President:

I am writing to you on behalf of ICIAM, the world society of applied mathematics, of which I have the honor of be president, to urge you against the action which may be taken very soon to strip the Russian Academy of Sciences of its historical independence.

It is with great concern that we learn that the Duma is in process of approving a law which will deprive the Russian Academy of Sciences of its property and functions, reassign them to various government agencies and create a new "Russian Academy of Sciences" that will be completely different from the current one. It is most troubling that this proposal has been drafted without involvement of the Russian scientific community itself or of the two councils created by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science for consultations with the scientific community. The Russian Academy of Sciences is one of the most prestigious academies in the world. As a student, I studied the Russian language so that I could read its publications on Partial Differential Equations. Many American students do the same thing today.

All institutions must undergo changes occasionally, and the Russian Academy of Sciences is no exception. However, change in the structure and leadership of a productive scientific organization such as the Russian Academy should be done with extreme care and with the full involvement of the scientific community. You may be aware that the US National Academy of Sciences became similarly politicized a generation ago, and its independence was re-established following strong protests by the entire US scientific community, to the great benefit of US science. We urge that you work with the newly elected leadership of the Russian Academy of Sciences and with the Russian scientific community in general to ensure that the academy continues to play, as it has in the past, a major role in promoting research of the highest quality in Russia. I'm sure you are aware of how much the economy of your country depends on scienceWe respectfully hope you will recognize that an independent scientific academy is fundamental to the progress of science, and that whatever reform plans are finally adopted will respect the integrity of this venerable institution, and will be made in close consultation with the scientific community itself.



Barbara L. Keyfitz
President ICIAM
Dr Charles Saltzer Professor of Mathematics
The Ohio State University

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ANZIAM (Australia and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics)
ASAMACI (Asociación Argentina de Matemática Aplicada Computacional e Industrial)
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ECMI (European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry)
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GAMM (Gesellschaft für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik)
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ISIAM (Indian Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics)
JSIAM (The Japan Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics)
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