



February 21, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Culberson and Ranking Members Shaheen and Serrano:

As members of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of over 130 professional organizations, universities, businesses, and scientific societies that advocate for robust federal support for the National Science Foundation (NSF) – we appreciate that the new discretionary budget caps included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 will now allow you and other appropriations leaders to effectively complete the FY2018 appropriations process. A \$63 billion increase in funding for non-defense discretionary programs provides the needed opportunity to strongly invest in America’s research enterprise, including the National Science Foundation.

[CNSF](#) urges you to seize this opportunity and fund NSF at \$8 billion for FY2018. Such a commitment is necessary for the United States to remain globally competitive. The National Science Board recently released the 2018 Science and Engineering Indicators Report which clearly shows that competitor nations, especially China, are rapidly improving their global position in science and technology while the United States is resting on its laurels of past investments. The [report](#) indicates that China is poised to become the global leader in S&T in the next few years. Simply put, the United States must ramp-up its investments in scientific research supported by NSF if we intend to remain competitive and at the forefront of science, technology and innovation.

Last year, during the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' mark-ups of the FY2018 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, committee leaders expressed the importance of reaching a bipartisan budget deal to increase funding for NSF. Clearly you and other appropriations committee members understand the positive impact NSF-funded research has on our economy, national security and global competitiveness. Due to past budget constraints, however, funding for the agency has remained flat. A request of \$8 billion for NSF in FY2018 reflects **4% real growth** from the FY2016 enacted. This requested increase of 4% real growth is consistent with the first recommendation in the clarion call-to-action, [Innovation: An American Imperative](#), which more than 500 organizations from all 50 states representing industry, academia, and scientific and engineering societies have endorsed. Moreover, this statement has received bipartisan and bicameral support and enthusiasm.

Now that Congress has achieved a bipartisan budget agreement with an additional \$63 billion for non-defense discretionary programs, we strongly advocate that the CJS portion of the FY2018 omnibus bill include \$8 billion in funding for NSF.

Please let us know how we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)

Afterschool Alliance	American Institute for	American Society for
American Agricultural	Medical and Biological	Engineering Education
Economics Association	Engineering	American Society for
American Anthropological	American Institute of	Microbiology
Association	Biological Sciences	American Society of
American Association for	American Institute of	Agronomy
Dental Research	Physics	American Society of Civil
American Association of	American Mathematical	Engineers
Geographers	Society	American Society of
American Association of	American Physical Society	Mechanical Engineers
Physics Teachers	American Physiological	American Society of Plant
American Astronomical	Society	Biologists
Society	American Political Science	American Sociological
American Chemical Society	Association	Association
American Educational	American Psychological	American Statistical
Research Association	Association	Association
American Geophysical	American Society for	Arafune Government
Union	Biochemistry & Molecular	Relations, LLC
American Geosciences	Biology	Archaeological Institute of
Institute		America

Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Battelle
Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, LLC
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council on Undergraduate Research

Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Eastman
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Eversole Associates
Federal Science Partners
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Florida State University
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA
Lehigh University
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
Linguistic Society of America
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University

Museum of Science, Boston
National Communication Association
National Ground Water Association
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Ornithological Council
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Psychonomic Society
PsySiP Project, The
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Research! America
Rutgers University- New Brunswick
SAGE Publishing
Seismological Society of America
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development

Society for the
Psychological Study of
Social Issues
Soil Science Society of
America
Stony Brook, The State
University of New York
Texas Tech University
The Bagley Group, LLC
The International Society
for optics and photonics
The Ohio State University
The Optical Society
The State University of
New York System
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

The University of
Wisconsin-Madison
Tufts University
UNAVCO
University Corporation for
Atmospheric Research
University of California
System
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois
system
University of Iowa
University of Maryland,
College Park

University of Michigan
University of Missouri
System
University of New Mexico,
University of Pennsylvania
University of South
Carolina
Vanderbilt University
Washington Partners, LLC
Washington State
University
West Virginia University
Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institution

Cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer
House Speaker Paul Ryan
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey