November 17, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair  Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, DC  20510  Washington, DC  20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair  Ranking Member
Commerce Justice, Science and Related  Commerce Justice, Science and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee  Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, DC  20510  Washington, DC  20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Mikulski, Cochran, and Shelby:

Thank you for your strong support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) over the years and thus far in the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) budget process. As the FY11 appropriations are finalized, we the undersigned organizations urge you to maintain the $7.4 billion budget level supported by the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee, the Senate Appropriations Committee and the President. This budget level demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to address America’s competitiveness by doubling the NSF budget over ten years, as authorized in the bipartisan 2007 America COMPETES Act and promoted by the President.

NSF is the only federal agency that supports research and education across all science and engineering disciplines. This support has led to many fundamental breakthroughs in these disciplines which in turn have contributed to U.S. technological innovation and therefore to our economic strength.

With the U.S. currently experiencing a challenging economic environment, robust investments in NSF should be viewed as part of a long-term strategy to address our economic vitality. Such funding is imperative to maintain a prosperous innovation pipeline, by training the innovation workforce, creating new products and improving current products.

Like you, we are concerned about U.S. economic well-being. The innovation pipeline is as important for future economic growth as it has been in the past, perhaps even more so.
We ask you to continue your commitment to address U.S. competitiveness through the vigorous support of basic research funding at NSF. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Samuel M. Rankin, III
Chair, Coalition for National Science Funding

Endorsing Organizations:

Afterschool Alliance
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geological Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Limnology & Oceanography
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS)
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA)
Association of University Research Parks
Binghamton University
Biophysical Society
California Institute of Technology
Center for Inquiry
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
College of Saint Elizabeth
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
EDUCAUSE
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Geological Society of America
Georgian Court University
Harvard University
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Endorsing Organizations (cont’d):

Kent State University  
Lewis-Burke Associates  
Linguistic Society of America  
MWW Group  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Materials Research Society  
Mathematical Association of America  
Michigan State University  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council for Science and the Environment  
National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)  
National Postdoctoral Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
The Ohio State University  
Oldaker, Belair & Wittie  
Optical Society of America  
Ornithological Council  
Pennsylvania State University  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Princeton University  
Protein Society  
Purdue University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rowan University  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Seismological Society of America  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Soil Science Society of America  
State University of New York (SUNY)  
State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research  
University of California  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Florida  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University