



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
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California Institute of
Technology
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Associates, LLC
Coalition for Academic
Scientific Computation
Coastal and Estuarine
Research Federation
Computing Research
Association
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Consortium of Social
Science Associations
Cornell University
Council of Graduate
Schools
Council of Scientific
Society Presidents
Council on Undergraduate
Research

Crop Science Society of
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Duke University
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America
Entomological Society of
America
Eversole Associates
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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
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Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Mathematical Association
of America
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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
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Rutgers University- New
Brunswick
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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
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Social Issues
Soil Science Society of
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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
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Atmospheric Research
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System
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University of Iowa
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System
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University of South
Carolina
Vanderbilt University
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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