

April 3, 2017

## Dear Members of the United States Congress:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, businesses, and scientific societies that advocates for sustained, robust federal support for science, *recommends an \$8 billion appropriation for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY2018.* We also ask Congress to maintain its longstanding commitment to the diversity of research disciplines NSF supports, each of which contributes in profound ways, advancing our nation's domestic interests and global competitiveness. Our recommendation for \$8 billion for NSF in FY2018 is consistent with "Innovation: An American Imperative." This call-to-action which was signed by more than 500 organizations from American industry, higher education, science and engineering last year, encourages Congress to enact policies and make investments to ensure that the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Recently, NSF hosted a Capitol Hill event to welcome the new Members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to Washington, D.C. and introduce them and their staff to the agency and the groundbreaking research it supports. The "NSF Arc of Science Research to Results" event showcased a dozen high-impact projects funded by the agency. Scientists and engineers funded by every NSF directorate participated in the event and showcased their research on smart cities, first responder technologies, crime forecasting, pathogen identification, cybersecurity, advanced robotics, and more. But the scientists and engineers were not the only ones excited by the work funded by NSF; students, police officers, medical professionals, museum educators and workers at a shellfish hatchery also participated in the event and talked about the positive impact NSF-funded research has made in their local communities and businesses.

As a pillar of America's scientific research enterprise, NSF-funded research has proven to be vital to our economy, national security, and global competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation. NSF funds research in important fields – including the physical sciences, biology, mathematics, economics, computer science, geoscience, social and behavioral science, engineering, and education research. The agency also plays a vital role in preparing the next generation's STEM workforce through funding of traineeships and research assistantships, as well as investments in K-12 STEM education both in and out of school. To foster potentially transformative research, NSF should continue to support research across *all* its directorates, use its world-renowned peer review system to identify the best science, and maintain flexibility to take advantage of unanticipated discoveries and insights.

We encourage the Members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to make federal funding for basic scientific research, particularly NSF-funded research a top priority. Other competitor-nations are investing heavily in research and development. For the United States to remain at the forefront of scientific and technological progress, we also must continue to invest in NSF and the nation's research enterprise.

We thank you for your support and urge Congress to continue this progress by *supporting an \$8 billion appropriation for NSF in FY 2018*. We stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

## Coalition for National Science Funding

Afterschool Alliance

American Agricultural Economics Association American Anthropological Association American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Association of Geographers American Association of Physics Teachers

American Astronomical Society American Chemical Society

American Educational Research Association

American Geophysical Union American Geosciences Institute

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Institute of Physics American Mathematical Society American Physical Society American Physiological Society American Political Science Association 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 Mechanical Engineers American Society of Plant Biologists American Sociological Association American Statistical Association Arafune Government Relations, LLC

Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS)

Associated Universities, Inc. Association for Psychological Science

Archaeological Institute of America

Association for the Sciences of Limnology & Oceanography

Association for Women in Mathematics Association for Women in Science 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 (ASTC)

Bagley Group, LLC, The Biophysical Society Biophysical Society Boise State University Boston University Brandeis University Brown University

California Institute of Technology Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Computing Research Association Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Consortium of Social Science Associations Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Inc.

Cornell University

Council of Graduate Schools Council of Scientific Society Presidents Council on Undergraduate Research Crop Science Society of America

Duke University - Office of Government Relations

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 Genetics Society of America Geological Society of America George Mason University Georgia Institute of Technology

Harvard University

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)

Independent Contractor

Indiana University (Invoice to Kelly Cornett)

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA (IEEE-USA)

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC Linguistic Society of America Madison Associates LLC

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Materials Research Society Mathematical Association of America Michigan State University Michigan Technological University Museum of Science, Boston National Communication Association National Ground Water Association

National Science Teachers Association North Carolina State University Northern Illinois University Northwestern University Ohio State University, The Oregon State University Ornithological Council Pennsylvania State University

National Postdoctoral Association

Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers

Princeton University Psychonomic Society PsySiP Project, The

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Research!America

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

SAGE Publishing

Seismological Society of America Society for American Archaeology

Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP)

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Society for Neuroscience

Society for Research in Child Development

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

Soil Science Society of America

SPIE

State University of New York at Stony Brook State University of New York System (SUNY)

Stevens Institute of Technology-Center for Innovation in Engineering and

Science Education (CIESE) Texas Tech University The Optical Society Tufts University

UCAR UNAVCO 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, The

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of Pennsylvania University of South Carolina University of Wisconsin-Madison Vonderbilt University

Vanderbilt University Washington Partners, LLC Washington State University Washington University in St. Louis

West Virginia University

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution