March 28, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader, United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Mulvaney, Acting Director Vought, Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, scientific societies, and businesses – strongly supports the enactment of a two-year bipartisan budget agreement that increases the spending caps for discretionary programs. Our country needs a bipartisan budget agreement to maintain key federal investments in America’s science and engineering enterprise.

For the 130 member groups of CNSF, strong and sustainable funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) is a high priority, especially if the United States is to remain a global innovation leader. NSF-funded research has proven vital to the nation’s economic growth, national security, and overall global competitiveness in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) development and education. Moreover, NSF programs enable the scientific work of other federal agencies and departments.

A bold approach to NSF funding is necessary in FY 2020 to provide needed support for potentially transformational Big Ideas initiatives, protect core programs that sustain broad science and engineering fields, build and operate world-class research infrastructure, and train the future STEM workforce for the United States to remain globally competitive. NSF funds research in important fields – including the physical sciences, biology, mathematics, computer science, geoscience, social and behavioral science, engineering and education – and prepares the next generation of STEM workers by funding traineeships, research fellowships, and investments in K-12 STEM education both in and out of school.

The reemergence of the spending caps in FY 2020 would have a detrimental effect on this work and overall federally funded scientific research, particularly as other nations are making significant investments in comparable research. We stand ready to work with you in hopes that Congress will pass and the President will sign a two-year bipartisan budget agreement to increase spending caps for discretionary programs in FY 2020.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)