The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) thanks Chairman Jay Rockefeller and his colleagues on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for introducing legislation to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act. CNSF is especially pleased with the proposed five-year budget growth for the National Science Foundation (NSF). This growth acknowledges the importance of NSF and its dedication to funding research and education across all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics and at all education levels.

Research and education programs supported by NSF help increase and develop the knowledge base needed for pushing the frontiers of science, mathematics, and engineering disciplines; contribute to the development of the future science and technology workforce; underpin new fields of inquiry; and promote interdisciplinary research and education, all of which facilitate technological innovation.

Robust and dependable funding levels will enable the Foundation and the science and engineering communities to plan, develop infrastructure, maintain a steady pipeline of graduate and postdoctoral students, and have feasible expectations of making new discoveries. The upward funding trajectory for NSF provided in this bill would go a long way toward closing the innovation deficit that has been building with recent stagnant U.S. research budgets. The funding growth provided in the bill would facilitate a continuous stream of high level research and researchers that, in turn, would support the level of technological development needed for economic growth.

NSF, a cornerstone of America’s research enterprise, is critical to America’s ability to compete globally in technological innovation. Real growth investments in NSF are absolutely critical to the nation’s economic health and global competitiveness.

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The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is an alliance of over 140 professional societies, universities, and corporations advocating support for the National Science Foundation.

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