



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)

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| 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 |
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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