

July 6, 2016

## Dear Members of the United States Senate:

On behalf of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – an alliance of 130 professional organizations, scientific societies, national associations, and universities – we would like to express our appreciation for the introduction of S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act. Recently, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation passed the bill and an amendment in the nature of a substitute, which authorizes funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). As an agency that supports world-class research, research training, and research infrastructure across all scientific disciplines, it is essential that NSF receive steady and sustainable funding. While we appreciate the four-percent increase in funding (not counting inflation) for fiscal year 2018, we would also welcome a longer authorization bill that sets aspirational funding targets to inform appropriators of the resources the agency needs to accomplish its important mission and to adequately support the new programs included in the bill. As this bill moves through the legislative process, we would encourage your support for extending the length of this authorization bill.

As you may know, NSF research plays a unique and vital role in the nation's innovation and scientific enterprise. This bill contains important provisions that underscore the value of NSF-supported research. For example, the bill reaffirms NSF's merit-based peer review process, which is viewed as the international "gold standard" for evaluating scientific research proposals. The bill also addresses the importance of broadening participation of women and underrepresented minorities in the STEM disciplines. Additionally, the bill addresses regulatory burden, by calling for more time to be spent on the conduct of federally-funded research and less on overly-burdensome administrative work. Another positive provision directs the Office of Management and Budget to revise current policies on government officials attending scientific and technical workshops. It is important for members of the scientific and research community to have the opportunity to engage and share information with representatives from federal research agencies.

Again, as this bill moves to the floor for consideration, we encourage the Senate to reaffirm its support for NSF by extending the length of the authorization beyond two years. CNSF looks forward to working with the Senate to ensure that NSF can robustly support world-class science and researchers across all disciplines and strengthen the agency's vital role in our nation's innovation ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Coalition for National Science Funding

## CNSF Membership:

Afterschool Alliance

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association

American Anthropological Association

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Association for Dental Research

American Association of Geographers

American Association of Physics Teachers

American Astronomical Society

American Chemical Society

American Educational Research Association

American Geosciences Institute

American Geophysical Union

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

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 Group

Archaeological Institute of America

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

Associated Universities, Inc.

Association for Psychological Science

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

The Bagley Group, LLC

**Biophysical Society** 

**Boise State University** 

**Boston University** 

**Brandeis University** 

**Brown University** 

California Institute of Technology

Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, LLC

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

Cornell University

Council of Graduate Schools

Council of Scientific Society Presidents

Council on Undergraduate Research

Crop Science Society of America

**Duke University** 

Eastman

**Ecological Society of America** 

**Eversole Associates** 

Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences

Florida State University

Genetics Society of America

Geological Society of America

Georgia Institute of Technology

Harvard University

Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology

**Indiana University** 

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA)

Linguistic Society of America

Madison Associates LLC

George Mason University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Materials Research Society

Mathematical Association of America

Michigan State University

Museum of Science, Boston

National Communication Association

National Ground Water Association

National Postdoctoral Association

National Science Teachers Association

New Mexico Optics Industry Association

North Carolina State University

Northern Illinois University

Northwestern University

The Ohio State University

The Optical Society

Oregon State University

Ornithological Council

Pennsylvania State University

Population Association of America/Association of

**Population Centers** 

Princeton University

The PsySiP Project

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 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 System (SUNY)

State University of New York at Stony Brook

Stevens Institute of Technology

Texas Tech University

**Tufts University** 

**UNAVCO** 

University of California System

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Florida

University of Illinois

University of Michigan

University of Missouri System

University of New Mexico

University of Pennsylvania

University of South Carolina

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