February 21, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
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)

Afterschool Alliance  American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Agricultural Economics Association American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Anthropological Association American Institute of Physics
American Association for Dental Research American Mathematical Society
American Association for Geographers American Physical Society
American Association of Physics Teachers American Physiological Society
American Astronomical Society American Political Science Association
American Chemical Society American Psychological Association
American Educational Research Association American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
American Geophysical Union American Society for Engineering Education
American Geosciences Institute American Society for Microbiology
American Institute for Engineering Education American Society of Agronomy
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering American Society of Civil Engineers
American Institute for Geophysical Engineers American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Institute of Biological Sciences American Society of Plant Biologists
American Institute for Physics American Sociological Association
American Psychological Association American Statistical Association
American Psychological Association Arafune Government Relations, LLC
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Archaeological Institute of America
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
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
Battelle
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
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
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
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA
Lehigh University
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
Linguistic Society of America
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Museum of Science, Boston
National Communication Association
National Ground Water Association
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Ornithological Council
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Academic Council of Populations
Princeton University
Psychonomic Society
PsySiP Project, The
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Research! America
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
SAGE Publishing
Seismological Society of America
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
| Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues | University of Wisconsin-Madison |
| Soil Science Society of America | Tufts University |
| Stony Brook, The State University of New York | UNAVCO |
| Texas Tech University | University Corporation for Atmospheric Research |
| The Bagley Group, LLC | University of California System |
| The International Society for Optics and Photonics | University of Colorado Boulder |
| The Optical Society | University of Florida |
| The State University of New York System | University of Illinois system |
| The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | University of Iowa |
| University of Michigan |
| University of Missouri System |
| University of New Mexico, University of Pennsylvania |
| University of South Carolina |
| Vanderbilt University |
| Washington Partners, LLC |
| Washington State University |
| West Virginia University |
| Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution |

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