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 Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
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 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 American Society for Engineering Education
American Anthropological Association American Institute of Biological Sciences American Society for Microbiology
American Association for Dental Research American Institute of Physics American Society of Agronomy
American Association of Geographers American Mathematical Society American Society of Civil Engineers
American Association of Physics Teachers American Physical Society American Society of Plant Biologists
American Astronomical Society American Physiological Society American Sociological Association
American Chemical Society American Political Science Association American Statistical Association
American Educational Research Association American Psychological Association Association
American Geophysical Union American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Arafune Government
American Geosciences Institute American Society for Biology Relations, LLC
American Mathematical Society American Sociological Association Archaeological Institute of America
Arafune Government Relations, LLC Archaeological Institute of America
| Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues | The University of Wisconsin-Madison | University of Michigan |
| Soil Science Society of America | Tufts University | University of Missouri System |
| Stony Brook, The State University of New York | UNAVCO | University of New Mexico, System |
| Texas Tech University | University Corporation for Atmospheric Research | University of Pennsylvania |
| The Bagley Group, LLC | University of California | University of South Carolina |
| The International Society for optics and photonics | System | Vanderbilt University |
| The Ohio State University | University of Cincinnati | Washington Partners, LLC |
| The Optical Society | University of Colorado | Washington State University |
| The State University of New York System | Boulder | West Virginia University |
| The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | University of Florida | Woods Hole |
| University of Pennsylvania | University of Illinois | Oceanographic Institution |
| University of South Carolina | University of Iowa | |
| University of Maryland, College Park | | |

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