



March 5, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) urges the 114th Congress to appropriate \$7.7 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in fiscal year 2016 (FY16). This would be a 5.2 percent increase over the FY15 appropriated level for NSF. As the only federal research agency “charged with the promotion of scientific progress across all scientific and engineering disciplines,” the research supported by NSF is absolutely vital to the nation’s economic health and global competitiveness.

As discussions on the FY16 appropriations process begin, we encourage members of Congress to make federal funding of NSF a high priority. As many familiar with the agency already know, NSF research and education programs produce the new knowledge and the trained scientists and engineers indispensable to our economic vitality and national security. The agency supports research in important fields such as the physical sciences, biology, mathematics, computer science, geoscience, social and behavioral science, and engineering. In addition, the agency serves a critical role in supporting STEM education across all levels of education -- from pre-kindergarten to graduate education. Simply put, the contributions made by NSF-supported research to the nation’s scientific and technological enterprise cannot be overstated. It is for these reasons that CNSF strongly urges Congress to maintain its longstanding commitment to NSF, by appropriating \$7.7 billion for the agency.

It is important to note that many of our global competitors are increasing their financial support for science and engineering research, while the rate of growth for research in the U.S. has been flat. In fact, in constant 2014 dollars, NSF has lost 5.8 percent of its budget from FY10 to FY14. This stagnant pace of funding is creating an innovation deficit in the United States. The innovation deficit is the widening gap between the actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world’s innovation leader.

To remain competitive, the U.S. must maintain its leadership position in high level scientific research across all fields of science and engineering, building knowledge, training the next generation of scientists and engineers, and improving science literacy in the process. NSF is critical to this endeavor. Even under tight budget constraints, it is imperative to have robust annual budget levels for NSF. Dependable, annual funding increases will enable the agency and the science and engineering communities to plan, develop infrastructure, maintain a steady pipeline of graduate and postdoctoral students, and facilitate a continuous stream of high level research and researchers that in turn will support the level of technological development needed for economic growth.

Again, CNSF urges members of the 114th Congress to appropriate \$7.7 billion for NSF in FY16.

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

Coalition For National Science Funding

Afterschool Alliance
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Dental Research
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 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 Geographers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA)
The Bagley Group, LLC
Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Boston 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 Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida State University
Genetics Society of America
Geological Society of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
IRIS Consortium
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA)
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
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 Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML)
National Communication Association
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)
National Ground Water Association
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
New Mexico Optics Industry Association
North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
Optical Society of America
Oregon State University
Ornithological Council
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Research!America
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
SAGE Publications Inc.
Seismological Society of America
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
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 Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of California
University of Chicago
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 New Orleans
University of Pennsylvania
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University of Wisconsin
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