



September 5, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Schumer, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As members of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) - a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, businesses, and scientific societies that advocate for sustained, robust federal support for science – we are writing to stress our support for the passage of a bipartisan budget agreement that increases the spending caps for discretionary programs. Our country needs a bipartisan budget agreement to maintain robust federal investments in America’s science and innovation enterprise.

For the [140 member groups of CNSF](#), robust and sustainable funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) is a high priority, especially if the United States is to remain globally competitive in science, technology, and innovation. NSF funds research in important fields – including the physical sciences, biology, mathematics, computer science, geoscience, social and behavioral science, engineering, and education. NSF is also instrumental in preparing the next generation’s STEM workforce through the funding of traineeships and research fellowships, as well as investments in K-12 STEM education both in and out of school.

We recognize and appreciate the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for funding NSF at a higher level than the Administration’s FY 2018 budget request; however, the mark of \$7.3 billion is significantly lower than the appropriation the agency received in FY 2017. At this level, fewer research grants will be awarded, fewer students will receive traineeships and fellowships, critical infrastructure construction will be delayed, and there will be less investment in STEM education. To enable the nation’s primary fundamental research agency to receive necessary funding, we strongly encourage the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to craft and pass a bipartisan budget agreement that would raise the spending caps. If there is a bipartisan budget agreement, CNSF encourages Congress to appropriate **at least \$7.8 billion for NSF**, which is a five percent increase over the FY 2017 enacted level, as considered by the Senate Appropriations Committee. This level of funding is commensurate with [Innovation: An American Imperative](#). This call-to-action—supported by over 500 organizations from American industry, higher education, and scientific societies—urges Congress to enact policies and investments to ensure that the United States remains a global innovation leader.

The re-emergence of spending caps in FY 2018 would have a detrimental impact on federally-funded scientific research. We believe that a balanced bipartisan budget agreement that raises the 2018 spending caps and makes prudent, adequate investments in scientific research and innovation would prevent budget gridlock and help grow the economy. In the last few weeks, several Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have called for an agreement to raise the caps for FY 2018. Their call for bipartisan action was recently echoed in a [letter from CNSF and 15 other coalitions](#) to the House and Senate leadership, in which we underscored the importance of robust investment in federally-funded research at NSF and other federal research agencies. Federally funded research has proven to be vital to our economy, national security, and global competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation. Now is not the time to back away from or decrease our investment in important scientific research, technology development and innovation through the National Science Foundation.

Again, we strongly encourage Members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to enact a bipartisan budget agreement that would increase spending caps for discretionary programs in FY 2018, and to ensure funding of **at least \$7.8 billion for NSF** in FY 2018.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)

Afterschool Alliance	American Statistical Association
American Agricultural Economics Association	Arafune Government Relations, LLC
American Anthropological Association	Archaeological Institute of America
American Association for Dental Research	Association for Psychological Science
American Association of Geographers	Association for Women in Mathematics
American Association of Physics Teachers	Association of American Medical Colleges
American Astronomical Society	Association of American Universities
American Chemical Society	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
American Educational Research Association	Association of Research Libraries
American Geophysical Union	Association of Science-Technology Centers
American Geosciences Institute	Battelle
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering	Biophysical Society
American Institute of Biological Sciences	Boise State University
American Institute of Physics	Boston University
American Mathematical Society	Brandeis University
American Physical Society	Brown University
American Physiological Society	California Institute of Technology
American Political Science Association	Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, LLC
American Psychological Association	Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
American Society for Engineering Education	Computing Research Association
American Society for Microbiology	Consortium for Ocean Leadership
American Society of Agronomy	Consortium of Social Science Associations
American Society of Civil Engineers	Cornell University
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Council of Graduate Schools
American Society of Plant Biologists	Council of Scientific Society Presidents
American Sociological Association	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 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  
Indiana University  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics  
Engineers-USA  
Lehigh University  
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/  
Association of Population Centers  
Princeton University  
Psychonomic Society  
PsySiP Project, The  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Research! America  
Rutgers University- New Brunswick  
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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  
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Texas Tech University  
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photonics  
The Ohio State University  
The Optical Society  
The State University of New York System  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill  
The University of Wisconsin-Madison  
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University of Pennsylvania  
University of South Carolina  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington Partners, LLC  
Washington State University  
West Virginia University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations  
House Committee on Appropriations