

September 5, 2017

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer Senate Minority Leader United States Senate 322 Hart 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 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 <u>140 member groups of CNSF</u>, 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 federallyfunded 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 <u>letter from CNSF and 15 other coalitions</u> 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 Agricultural Economics Association American Anthropological Association 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 Geophysical Union American Geosciences Institute 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, LLC 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 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 **SAGE** Publishing

Cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations House Committee on Appropriations

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