March 24, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-309, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah:

We write to respectfully request that the National Science Foundation (NSF) receives at least $7.724 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Investing in the National Science Foundation is in our country’s best interest. Career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields are increasing but our nation is not producing the workforce needed to meet those demands. *U.S. News and World Report* and Georgetown University researchers estimate there will be a shortage of five million STEM professionals by 2020 unless we begin training the workforce of the future. Our nation ranked 27th in math and 20th in science performance when compared to our peer nations. We cannot afford to continue to fall further behind in STEM education.

The NSF is crucial to developing our workforce and remaining economically strong. One out of every four basic research projects at colleges and universities across the U.S. is supported by the NSF. The NSF is the only federal agency specifically responsible for supporting essential education and research across all science and engineering fields. This requested level of funding will enable 356,000 researchers, including teachers and students across the country, to address some of our society’s most pressing concerns through 12,000 individual NSF awards. NSF funding has provided the training for millions of researchers to enter the skilled workforce and help the U.S. compete in an increasingly competitive global economy.

The innovation inspired by the NSF has significant and long-term economic benefits for our country. Research supported by the NSF has been expanded upon and applied commercially by domestic companies, benefiting the private sector and our nation’s economy. Breakthroughs attributed to NSF-funded research have spurred products such as advanced radar systems, high-definition video conferencing, and solar energy components, which have created jobs and helped companies grow. NSF research has also made us safer through innovation in explosive material detection and improved storm and disaster planning.
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As our competitors across the globe invest in developing modern and inventive labor forces, our country will fall short if we fail to invest in research now. We must commit to strengthening our research capacities and prepare future generations to help our nation remain a world economic leader. We respectfully request your support to ensure that the NSF receives at least $7.724 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We feel this amount is the minimum level of funding needed to ensure we have the resources to remain globally competitive.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

Glenn “G.T.” Thompson  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Frank Guinta  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress
John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

Emmanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Alfio Sires  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress
David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Collin Peterson
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Gwen Graham  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Member of Congress
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

John Delaney  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Don Beyer  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

David Price  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu