

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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.

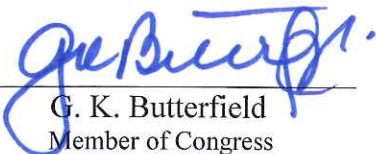
The innovation inspired by the NSF has significant and long-term economic benefits for our country. Research supported by the NSF has been expanded upon and applied commercially by domestic companies, benefiting the private sector and our nation's economy. Breakthroughs attributed to NSF-funded research 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.

Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah
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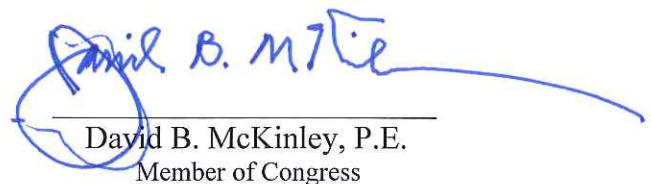
As our competitors across the globe invest in developing modern and inventive labor forces, our country will fall short if we fail to invest in research now. We must commit to strengthening our research capacities and prepare future generations to help our nation remain a world economic leader. We respectfully 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,



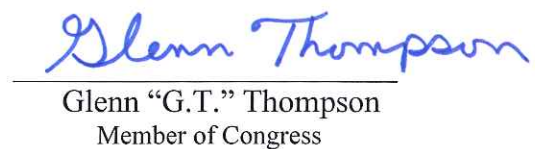
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



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



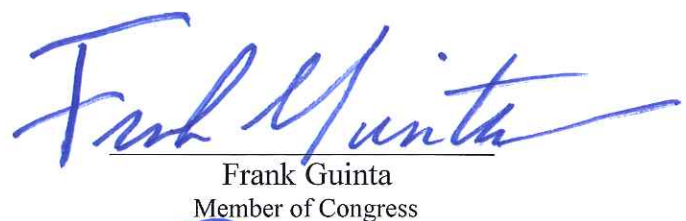
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



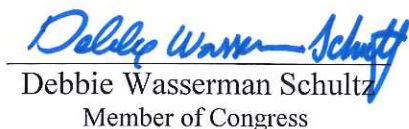
Glenn "G.T." Thompson
Member of Congress



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


Steve King
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
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Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

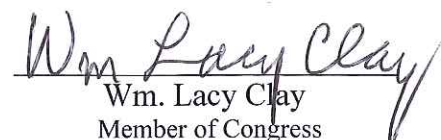

André Carson
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress


Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress

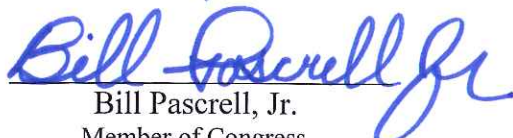

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress


John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

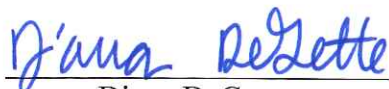

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

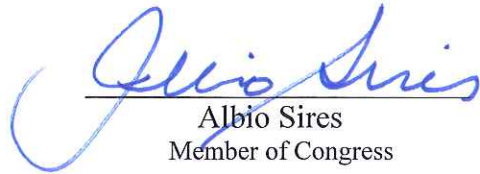

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress

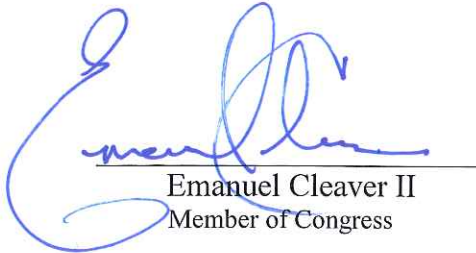

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



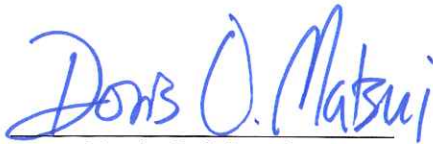
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



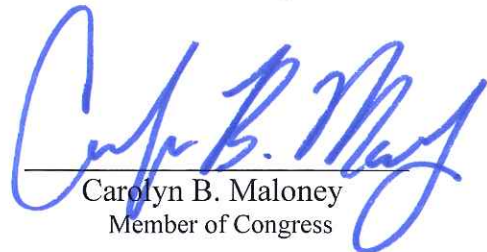
Emanuel Cleaver II
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



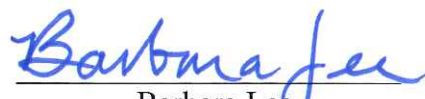
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



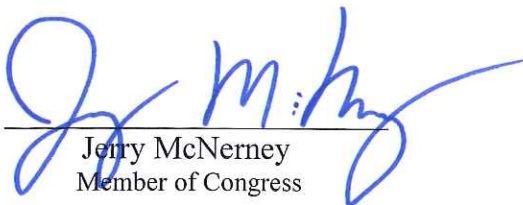
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



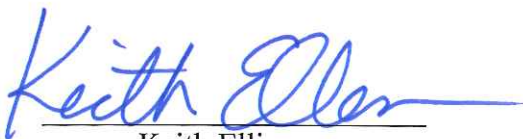
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



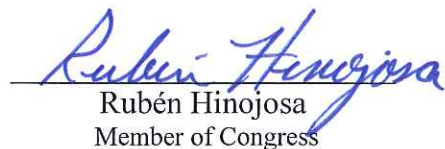
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



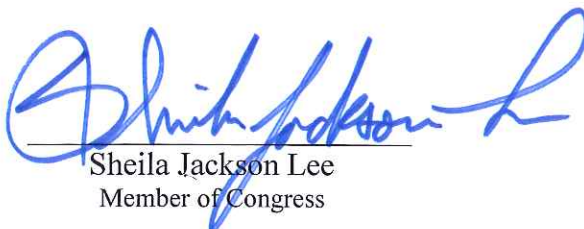
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



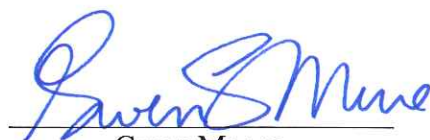
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



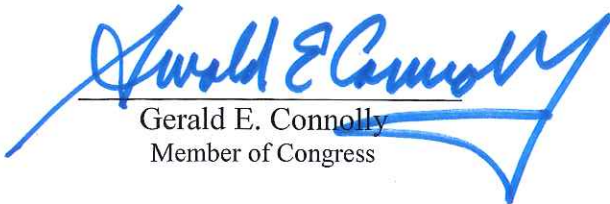
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



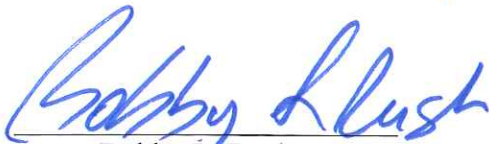
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress




Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



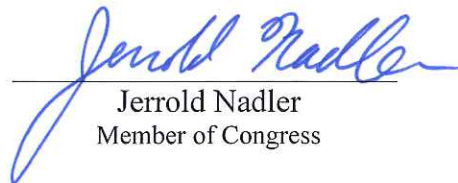
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



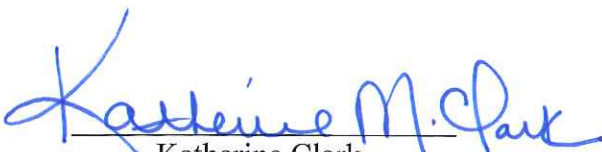
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



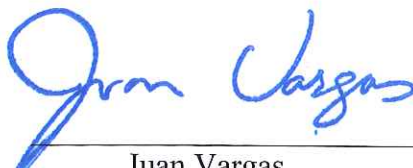
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress




Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



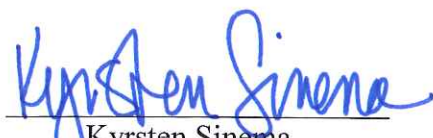
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



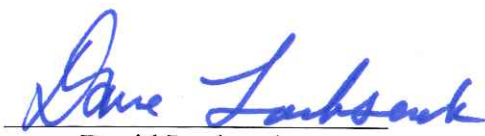
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



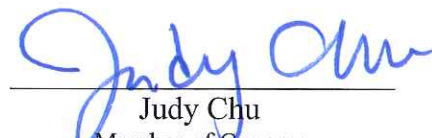
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



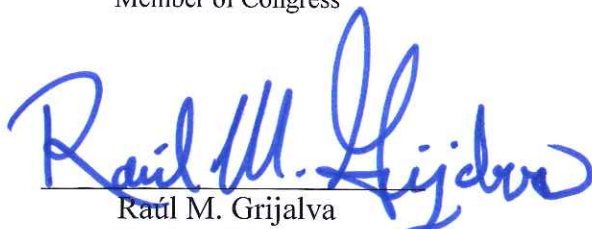
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress




Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress




Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress



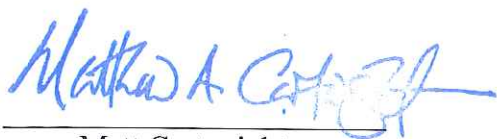
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



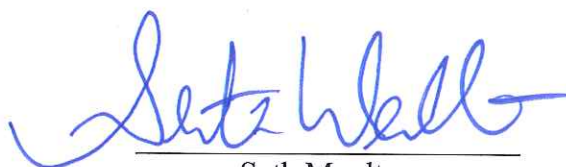
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



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



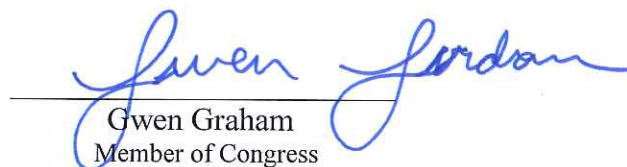
Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



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



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



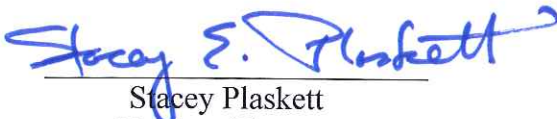
Julia Brownley
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Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



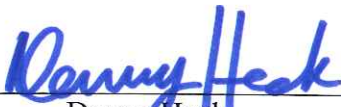
Suzanne Bonamici
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James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela, Jr.
Member of Congress



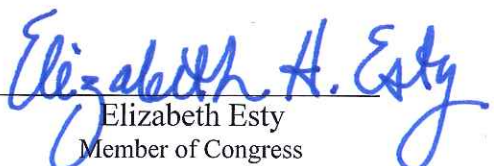
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Mark Takai
Member of Congress




Karen Bass
Member of Congress




Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress

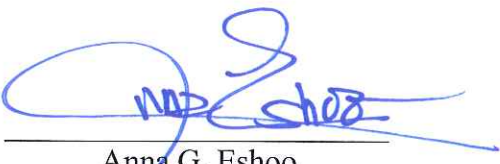

Peter King
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Mike Doyle
Member of Congress


Dan Kildee
Member of Congress


Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Joaquín Castro
Member of Congress


Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

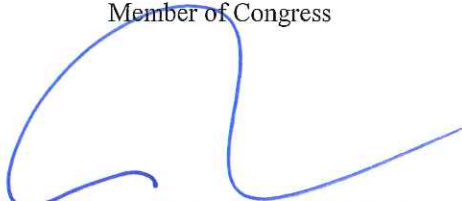

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
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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

Leri Aweel

Linda J. Sanchez
