



April 4, 2017

Dear Members of the United States Congress:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, and scientific societies that advocates for sustained, robust federal support for science, **recommends an \$8 billion appropriation for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY2018**. We also ask Congress to maintain its longstanding commitment to the diversity of research disciplines NSF supports, each of which contributes in profound ways, advancing our nation's domestic interests and global competitiveness. Our recommendation for \$8 billion for NSF in FY2018 is consistent with ["Innovation: An American Imperative."](#) This call-to-action which was signed by more than 500 organizations from American industry, higher education, science and engineering last year, encourages Congress to enact policies and make investments to ensure that the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Recently, NSF hosted a Capitol Hill event to welcome the new Members of the 115th Congress to Washington, D.C. and introduce them and their staff to the agency and the groundbreaking research it supports. The ["NSF Arc of Science Research to Results"](#) event showcased a dozen high-impact projects funded by the agency. Scientists and engineers funded by every NSF directorate participated in the event and showcased their research on smart cities, first responder technologies, crime forecasting, pathogen identification, cybersecurity, advanced robotics, and more. But the scientists and engineers were not the only ones excited by the work funded by NSF; students, police officers, medical professionals, museum educators and workers at a shellfish hatchery also participated in the event and talked about the positive impact NSF-funded research has made in their local communities and businesses.

As a pillar of America's scientific research enterprise, NSF-funded research has proven to be vital to our economy, national security, and global competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation. NSF funds research in important fields – including the physical sciences, biology, mathematics, economics, computer science, geoscience, social and behavioral science, engineering, and education. The agency also plays a vital role in preparing the next generation's STEM workforce through funding of traineeships and research assistantships. To foster potentially transformative research, NSF should continue to support research across *all* its directorates, use its world-renowned peer review system to identify the best science, and maintain flexibility to take advantage of unanticipated discoveries and insights.

We encourage the Members of the 115th Congress to make federal funding for basic scientific research, particularly NSF-funded research a top priority. Other competitor-nations are investing heavily in research and development. For the United States to remain at the forefront of scientific and technological progress, we also must continue to invest in NSF and the nation's research enterprise.

We thank you for your support and urge Congress to continue this progress by **supporting an \$8 billion appropriation for NSF in FY 2018**. We stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

Members of Coalition for National Science Funding