



June 15, 2020

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

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

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, scientific societies, and businesses – wants to thank Congress for its consistent support for fundamental scientific research and educational programs supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As the only federal agency charged with the promotion of scientific progress across all scientific and engineering disciplines, NSF is the cornerstone of America’s basic research enterprise.

We urge you to swiftly allow a vote on Dr. Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan’s nomination to become the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) following his recent unanimous approval by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. In this time of national crisis, it is imperative that NSF has strong, permanent leadership to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, develop solutions and understanding to strengthen our resilience, and ensure our national science and technology competitiveness.

Dr. Panchanathan has served as a member of the National Science Board, NSF’s advisory body, since 2014, providing him an in-depth understanding of the agency and its current goals. This, along with his service in various Chief Research Officer roles at Arizona State University since 2010, make him exceptionally qualified for the position.

Dr. Panchanathan’s nomination comes as the United States faces new and novel competition from countries around the globe and seeks to maintain its title as the innovation capital of the world. His confirmation will allow NSF to continue its long legacy of investing in essential basic research and supporting the growth of the American scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)



American Anthropological Association  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Geographers  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Economic Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
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  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Battelle  
Biophysical Society  
Boise State University  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
California Institute of Technology  
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates  
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cornell University



Council of Graduate Schools  
Crop Science Society of America  
Duke University  
Eastman  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
Eversole Associates  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Florida State University  
Forge Policy Solutions  
Geological Society of America  
George Mason University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
IEEE-USA  
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)  
Indiana University  
Lehigh University  
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC  
Linguistic Society of America  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Mathematical Association of America  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Mineralogical Society of America  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
National Communication Association  
National Postdoctoral Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
New York University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Princeton University  
Psychonomic Society  
PsySiP: Psychology of Science in Policy  
Purdue University  
Research!America  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
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Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)  
Soil Science Society of America  
SPIE  
St. Louis University  
State University of New York System (SUNY)  
Stony Brook University  
The Ohio State University  
The Optical Society  
Tufts University  
UNAVCO  
University of California System  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
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Verizon  
Washington State University  
West Virginia University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University