



May 19, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Rogers, Lowey, Culberson, and Fattah:

The Coalition for National Science Funding, an alliance of professional organizations, universities, and scientific societies, are contacting you to express our concerns about the FY2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Specifically, we would like to raise two issues of concern with the Members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

(1) The FY2016 CJS Appropriations bill provides a small increase in funding for NSF. While we recognize that tight budget caps on domestic discretionary programs are in place due to the Budget Control Act, we also would suggest that the nation needs to maintain its commitment to investing in our scientific and research enterprise. Strong investment in the nation's research enterprise is absolutely necessary if we are to remain globally competitive in science and technology development. In order to remain competitive, we must provide stable and sustainable investments in NSF.

(2) The report language accompanying the bill requires NSF to dedicate 70 percent of its funding to four research directorates, and keep other offices (the Office of International Science and Engineering; Integrative Activities; and the U.S. Arctic Commission) at their current FY2015 funding levels.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, universities, and businesses advocating support for the National Science Foundation.

Coalition for National Science Funding • 1527 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036 • 202-588-1100 www.cnsfweb.org

Unfortunately, this will force NSF to cut over \$250 million, 16 percent of the combined budget, from the remaining two research directorates: Geosciences and the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. Such cuts would have a devastating impact on the disciplinary and interdisciplinary research supported by these directorates, impacting research as diverse as disaster prediction and recovery, prediction of extreme weather events, weak links in cybersecurity, children's learning, and big data.

NSF is the nation's only science agency charged by Congress to support fundamental science across all scientific disciplines. The agency is the backbone for discovery and innovation in the U.S. Now, more than ever, Members of Congress must take the lead in providing the funding across all sciences that will keep the U.S. globally competitive. CNSF welcomes the opportunity to work with the Committee to produce a budget that best supports the progress of science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Rankin, III".

Samuel M. Rankin, III
Chair
Coalition for National Science Funding

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations