



November 14, 2014

Dear Member of Congress:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) members listed below write to strongly urge passage of a fiscal year (FY)2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill this year, rather than a continuing resolution based on the FY2014 appropriations levels. The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress has an important opportunity to continue its commitment to investing in America's research enterprise by providing sustainable funding for NSF in an FY2015 Omnibus bill.

The NSF has long enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support for its science, engineering, and education programs. Your continued commitment to NSF is essential at a time when federal investments in research agencies are not keeping pace with inflation, and our foreign competitors are making significant investments in science and engineering research and education. In recent years, China and other nations have been rapidly increasing their investments in all fields of scientific research while American investment has started to stagnate. This has created an innovation deficit in the United States. The innovation deficit is the widening gap between the actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader. To close the innovation deficit and maintain our position of leadership, we must continue to make strong and sustainable investments in our research enterprise. We can start by passing an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill which provides increased funding for NSF.

As the only federal agency with the unique mission of "the promotion of scientific progress across all of the scientific and engineering disciplines," the agency needs sustained federal investment to fulfill its mission. We therefore urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill that funds the agency at \$7.4 billion, the level included in the House-passed FY2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill. This represents a modest three percent increase over the NSF's FY2014 funding level.

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to the basic scientific research, engineering, and education programs supported by NSF. As Congress begins to work on an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill, we certainly hope that funding for NSF is amongst your highest priorities.

Sincerely,

*The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is an alliance of more than 140 scientific and engineering societies, higher education associations, universities, and research institutions that support strong funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF).*

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American Association for Dental Research  
American Anthropological Association  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Institute for Medical and  
Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Biochemistry and  
Molecular Biology  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Association for Applied Psychophysiology  
and Biofeedback  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of American Universities  
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Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Cognitive Science Society  
Columbia University  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
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Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
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Experimental Biology  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral  
& Brain Sciences  
Geological Society of America  
Linguistic Society of America  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
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