

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2009

## *Support a Sustained Investment in the National Science Foundation in FY2010*

**DEADLINE: March 27, 2009**

Dear Colleague:

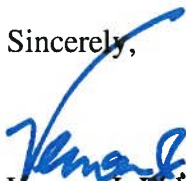
We invite you to join us in signing the attached letter requesting that the Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) Appropriations subcommittee make the National Science Foundation (NSF) a priority as it deliberates the FY 2010 budget.

Advances in science and technology underpin our ability to meet many of the challenges that America faces today, including securing the homeland, preventing terrorism, fostering innovation and economic development, and educating our children to be able to compete in the knowledge-based, global economy. More than eighty percent of NSF's grant funding goes to researchers and students at colleges and universities across the nation.

Supporting the NSF is key to maintaining our pre-eminence in science and technology. NSF investments are aimed at the frontiers of science and engineering, where advances in fundamental knowledge drive innovation, progress, and productivity. **We believe that NSF should be funded at the Administration's requested level of \$7.0 billion in the FY 2010 budget.** We hope that you will join us in asking for support by signing the attached letter and including NSF in the programmatic requests you submit to the CJS Subcommittee (no financial disclosure is necessary). For your reference, the FY09 funding bills appropriated \$6.5 billion for NSF.

To sign the letter, or for answers to any questions, please contact Julia Jester in Rep. Ehlers' office (x53831), Will O'Neal in Rep. Holt's office (x55801), or John Veysey in Rep. Lipinski's office (5-5701). [Deadline to sign is March 27.](#)

Sincerely,



Vernon J. Ehlers  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Bob Inglis  
Member of Congress

*Please turn over*

March XX, 2009

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice &  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-310 Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice &  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-310 Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

We are writing to thank you for your consistent support for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and to urge you to continue that support in the fiscal year 2010 (FY10) appropriations bill. We ask that you uphold the Administration's FY10 funding level request of \$7.0 billion for the National Science Foundation.

The NSF funds investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed, competitively selected awards, state-of-the-art tools, instrumentation, facilities, and educational programs. In 2007, an esteemed panel at the National Academies issued an urgent warning that we may be losing our economic edge in science and technology. The panel's *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* report served as a catalyst for Congress and the Administration to pass the America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69), which authorizes doubling the funding for the physical sciences over a seven-year period. The COMPETES Act authorizes \$8.1 billion for NSF in FY10.

Despite mounting evidence that we are continuing to lose our position as worldwide leaders in science and technology and overwhelming support for the COMPETES Act, funding for the NSF fell short of the doubling path in the FY07, FY08 and FY09 regular appropriations cycles. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) included a lump sum of \$3.0 billion for the NSF which will help, but the NSF needs sustained annual funding to maintain our competitive edge in science and technology.

A renewed commitment to core basic research and educational programs at the NSF is an essential part of meeting the multidisciplinary challenges we face in areas such as energy, health care, and nanotechnology. In an increasingly competitive global marketplace, we must make sustained investments in the physical sciences and engineering through the National Science Foundation.

Past investments in the NSF have resulted in technological advances that have driven our economic growth and bolstered our national defense. We respectfully request that you continue to support such advances by funding the NSF at \$7.0 billion in the FY10 appropriations bill.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Cc:  
Chairman David R. Obey  
Ranking Member Jerry Lewis