

June 14, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science  
and Related Agencies  
H-310 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda  
Ranking Minority Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice Science  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda,

The undersigned organizations and institutions would like to thank you for crafting and shepherding through committee the fiscal year 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act and accompanying committee report. We appreciate your recognition of the importance of investing at the National Science Foundation (NSF) across all scientific disciplines, leaving directorate funding decisions to experts at NSF with technical input from the scientific community, the National Academies, the National Science Board, and other bodies.

We also appreciate language included in the committee report that supports NSF's peer review process "to identify and recommend funding for scientifically meritorious research," and the report's statement that "NSF's ability to fund cutting-edge research helps keep the United States at the forefront of research across all scientific disciplines, which in turn builds the technological capabilities that underpin economic growth and prosperity."

The NSF's merit review process is the global gold standard for selecting the most promising research within and across scientific fields of study, including the biological, computer, geosciences, mathematical, physical, social and behavioral sciences, and engineering. The merit review system remains the best means for meeting national scientific priorities, fostering innovation, and determining which grant proposals to fund.

With regard to the overall funding level for NSF, we are concerned that what amounts to essentially flat funding for this agency—at a time when other countries are making significant investments in basic research—could lead to the erosion of America's preeminence in innovation and scientific research. We know that the subcommittee is keenly interested in maintaining our nation's edge in producing the best science and scientists, and we urge you to continue to seek opportunities to maximize funding for this critical agency.

We thank you again for your leadership on these issues and look forward to working with you further as the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act advances through the House.

Sincerely,

American Anthropological Association  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Chemical Society  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Political Science Association

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American Psychological Association  
American Sociological Association  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Biophysical Society  
Brandeis University  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Florida State University  
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Penn State University  
Population Association of America  
SAGE Publishing  
Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California System  
University of Michigan