

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2003

The Honorable James T. Walsh  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and IA  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and IA  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walsh and Ranking Member Mollohan:

We are writing as longtime supporters of fundamental scientific research and education. Science and technology fuel the growth of our economy, provide the means of our national security, and inspire our children. Many of the benefits we reap today stem from wise investments made decades ago. Last year, Congress recognized we must continue to invest in America's scientific enterprise by overwhelmingly passing the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-368). This legislation authorizes a path toward doubling the National Science Foundation (NSF) over the next five years. In order to meet this goal we request a funding level of \$6.39 billion for Fiscal Year 2004.

NSF's impact over the past half century has been monumental. Ideas first conceived in the labs of NSF-funded researchers now permeate our daily lives; helping both our economy and our war in Iraq and on terrorism. These achievements include Internet browsers, Doppler weather radar, fiber optics, earthquake hazard mitigation, even the geographic information systems used to coordinate rescue efforts at the World Trade Center. NSF-funded projects have discovered planets around stars, created nanoscale carbon "buckyballs," helped develop lasers, wireless communications, and global positioning technology, and have garnered over 100 Nobel Prizes.

NSF is also vital to supplying our nation with scientists, engineers, and skilled technological workers. NSF provides grants to college-level scientists for cutting-edge research and technology. These scientists train students, many of whom then go into industry and become a crucial part of the knowledge transfer between universities and industry. A five-year study released in 1997 showed that technology transfer from academic research added more than \$21 billion—supporting 180,000 jobs—to the American economy each year.

There has never been a more critical or opportune time to bolster the education of America's children. NSF's math and science education programs work at the pre-college level to raise the scientific and technological literacy of our children, who are tomorrow's workers, teachers, consumers, and public citizens. NSF further aims to improve the skills and content knowledge of K-12 math and science teachers through innovative programs such as Math and Science Partnerships. NSF programs have become important resources for broadening the participation of under-represented groups such as minorities and women in science, math, and engineering.

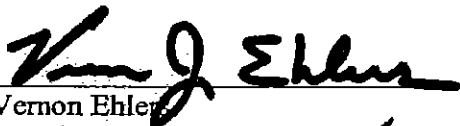
Last year, Congress completed a five-year, \$13.7 billion effort to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). While this successful effort has fueled tremendous opportunities in health-related research, these opportunities require continued investment in the physical sciences. For example, related technologies such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound, digital mammography, and genomic mapping could not have occurred, and cannot now improve to the next level of proficiency, without underlying knowledge from NSF-supported work in biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, and computer sciences. Doubling the NIH's budget has thrown off the relative balance in funding between NSF and NIH.

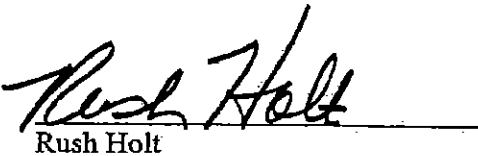
We believe that it is critical to restore this balance starting this year, and that it can be accomplished even during tight budgets. In fact, last year we *increased* NIH's budget by \$3.6 billion to complete the doubling commitment. This increase is over half of what we are requesting for NSF's *entire* budget.

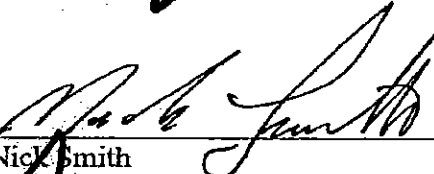
We ask you to address this imbalance and strengthen science and technology research, development, and education by increasing the NSF budget to \$6.39 billion for FY2004. The increase would be used to expand core science programs, enabling NSF to begin funding highly ranked grant proposals that are turned down solely for lack of funding. It would also fund K-12 education programs that are critical for improving math and science education throughout the country, as well as large facility projects that have already been approved by the National Science Board.

We believe that Congress' long-term goal should be to at least double NSF's resources, and we respectfully request your support in achieving this goal.

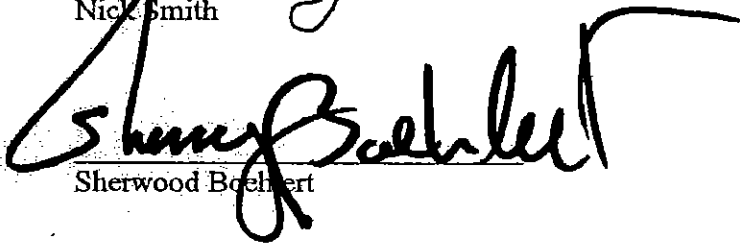
Sincerely,

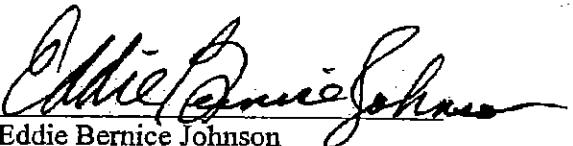
  
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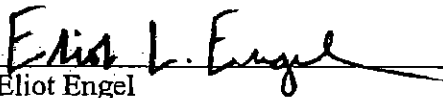
  
Rush Holt

  
Nick Smith

  
Ralph Hall

  
Sherwood Boehlert

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

  
Eliot Engel

  
Martin Frost

Amo Houghton  
Amo Houghton

Gene Green  
Gene Green

Michael R. McNulty  
Michael McNulty

Dennis Cardoza  
Dennis Cardoza

Jerrold Nadler  
Jerrold Nadler

Michael Honda  
Michael Honda

Michael C. Capuano  
Michael Capuano

Bob Filner  
Bob Filner

Louise M. Slaughter  
Louise Slaughter

Wayne T. Gilchrest  
Wayne Gilchrest

Bernie Sanders  
Bernie Sanders

Mark Udall  
Mark Udall

David Price  
David Price

Lois Capps  
Lois Capps

Timothy Johnson  
Timothy Johnson

Bob Etheridge  
Bob Etheridge

James Leach  
James Leach

Jim Cooper  
Jim Cooper

David Dreier  
David Dreier

Dale E. Kildee  
Dale Kildee

Mike McIntyre  
Mike McIntyre

Richard Baker  
Richard Baker

Steve Israel  
Steve Israel

Jim Matheson  
Jim Matheson

Adam Schiff  
Adam Schiff

Henry Waxman  
Henry Waxman

Lloyd Doggett  
Lloyd Doggett

Sander Levin  
Sander Levin

Tammy Baldwin  
Tammy Baldwin

George Nethercutt, Jr.  
George Nethercutt, Jr.

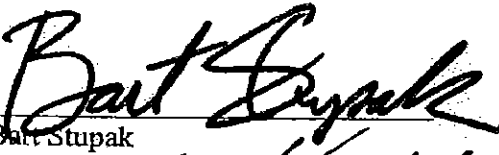
Rob Simmons  
Rob Simmons  
CA12

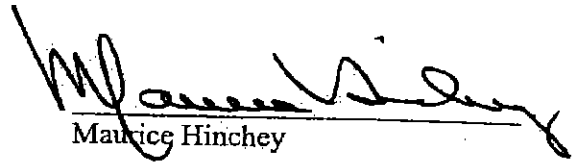
Richard Neal  
Richard Neal

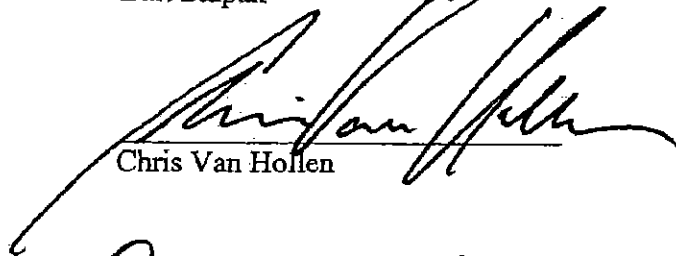
Betty McCollum  
Betty McCollum

Sherrod Brown  
Sherrod Brown

George Miller  
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Bart Stupak

  
Maurice Hinchey

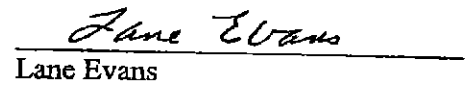
  
Chris Van Hollen

  
James Moran

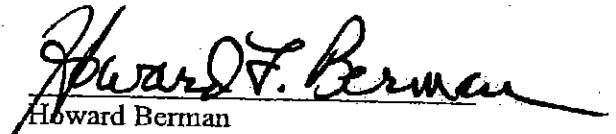
  
Carolyn Maloney

  
Rosa DeLauro

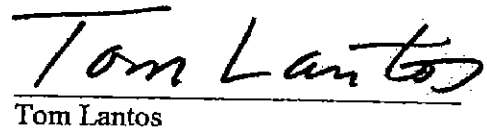
  
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Lane Evans

  
Christopher Cox

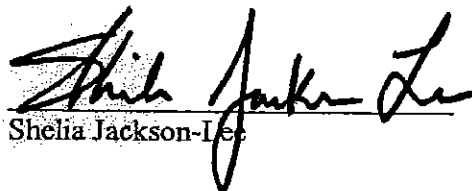
  
Howard Berman

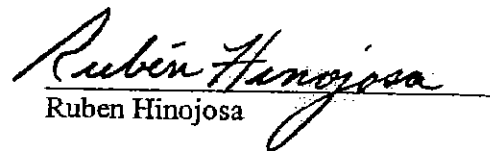
  
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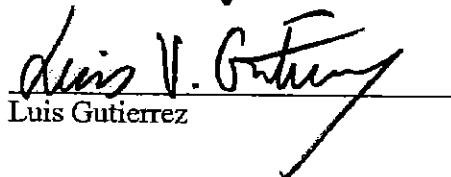
  
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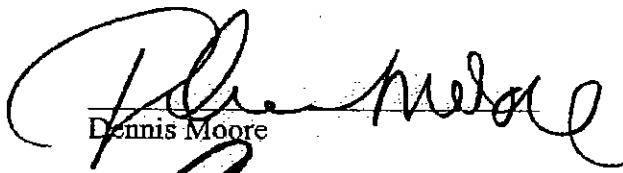
  
Gary Ackerman

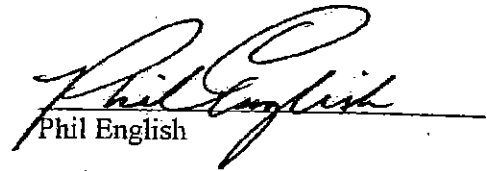
  
Shelia Jackson-Lee

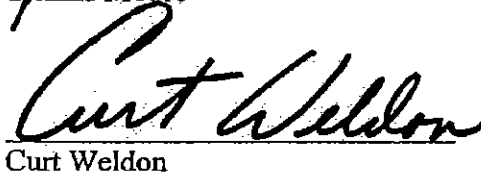
  
Ruben Hinojosa


  
Luis Gutierrez

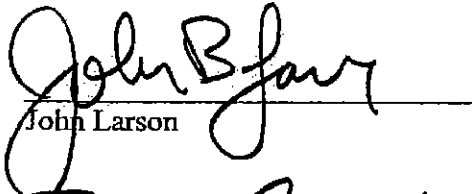
  
Michael Michaud

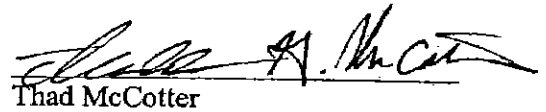
  
Dennis Moore

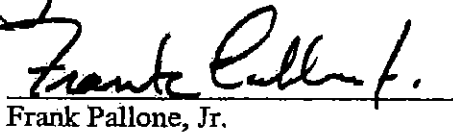
  
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Curt Weldon

  
Brad Miller

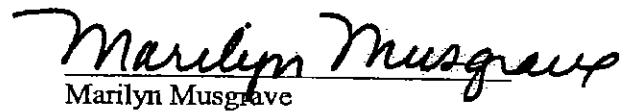
  
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Thad McCotter

  
Frank Pallone, Jr.

  
Zach Wamp

  
Kevin Brady

  
Marilyn Musgrave

  
Ted Strickland

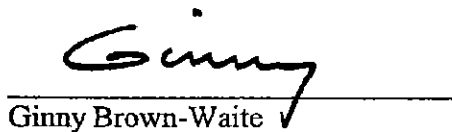
  
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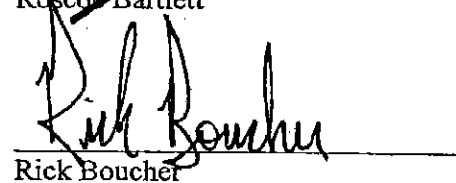
  
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Leonard Boswell

  
Donald Payne

  
Roscoe Bartlett

  
Ginny Brown-Waite

  
Rick Boucher

Ra Kind

Ron Kind

Edward J. Markey

Edward Markey

Jim Langevin

James Langevin

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

David Wu

David Wu

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush

Jim McCrery

Jim McCrery

William Jefferson

William Jefferson

Ellen Tauscher

Ellen Tauscher

Ken Calvert

Ken Calvert

Jerry Costello

Jerry Costello

Frank Ballance

Frank Ballance

Jack Quinn

Jack Quinn

Joseph Hoeffel

Joseph Hoeffel

John Tierney

John Tierney

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Dave Camp  
Dave Camp

Danny K. Davis  
Danny Davis

Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Dutch Ruppertsberger

Mark Green  
Mark Green

Fred Upton  
Fred Upton

Barney Frank  
Barney Frank

Bart Gordon  
Bart Gordon

Susan Davis  
Susan Davis

William Delahunt  
William Delahunt

Paul Grijalva  
Paul Grijalva

Carolyn McCarthy  
Carolyn McCarthy

Gil Gutknecht  
Gil Gutknecht

Corrine Brown  
Corrine Brown

Chris Bell  
Chris Bell

Tim Bishop  
Tim Bishop

Barbara Lee  
Barbara Lee

Grace E. Napolitano  
Grace Napolitano

J.D. Hayworth  
J.D. Hayworth

Lynn Woolsey  
Lynn Woolsey

Wm. Lacy Clay  
William Clay

Paul Gillmor  
Paul Gillmor

Baron Hill  
Baron Hill

Melissa Hart  
Melissa Hart

Robert J. Matsui  
Robert Matsui

Tim Ryan  
Tim Ryan

Neil Abercrombie  
Neil Abercrombie

Major Owens  
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Rodney Alexander  
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Lincoln Davis  
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Charles G. Gonzales  
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Tom Cole  
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Brad Sherman  
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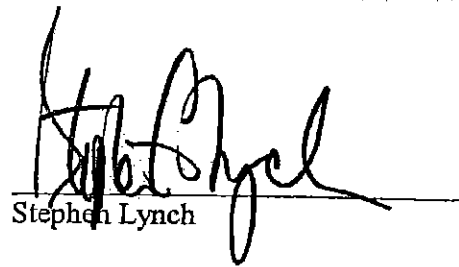
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Doug Ose  
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Candice Miller  
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Lamar Smith  
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Janice Schakowsky

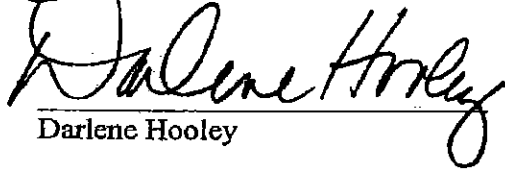
  
Stephen Lynch

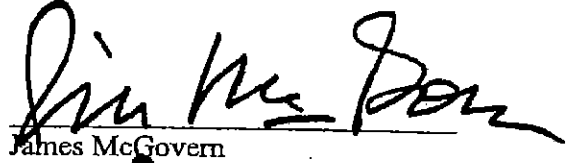
  
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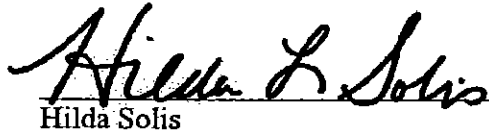
  
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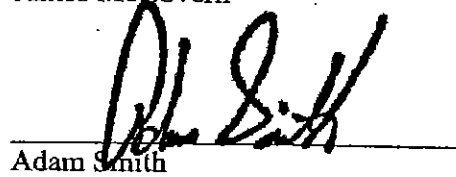
  
Jane Harman

  
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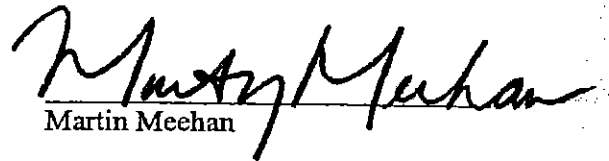
  
Darlene Hooley

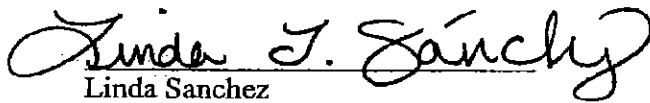
  
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Hilda Solis

  
Adam Smith

  
Silvestre Reyes

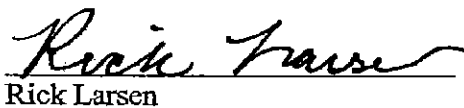
  
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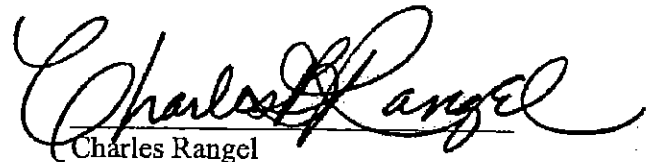
  
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James Oberstar

  
Tom Davis

  
William Lipinski

  
Rick Larsen

  
Charles Rangel



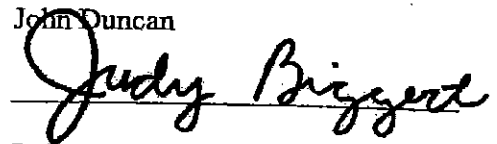
Rob Bishop



Ben Cardin



John Duncan



Judy Biggert