



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 113th 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 Anthropological Association
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
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American Institute for Medical and
Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
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