



Statement on FY 2015 Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) commends Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL), and their colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for passing a Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill that places a high priority on basic science funding at the National Science Foundation (NSF). CNSF is an alliance of nearly 140 organizations concerned about the future vitality of the nation's science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise. The funding level for NSF in this bipartisan appropriations bill has broad support in the science and higher education communities.

The Senate CJS Appropriations bill will provide critical support for NSF programs at a time when federal investments in science have been dwindling to rates that do not keep pace with inflation or with other countries' significant investments. In recent years, China and other nations have been rapidly increasing their investments in scientific research at the same time American investments have been stagnating, thus creating an innovation deficit for the United States.

The Appropriations Committee, recognizing the necessity of federal investments in basic science research, provides an increase in funding to NSF programs. The bill provides a 1.2 percent increase for NSF over FY 2014 estimates and equals the President's FY 2015 request. Within a tight federal budget, steady and sustained investments in science are needed to enable scientific discovery and attract new generations to STEM fields. NSF funding provides substantial support for federally-supported basic research in U.S. colleges and universities, funding that advances science and contributes to local economies. This basic research is the seed corn for the nation's economic growth.

Given the significance of federal support for basic science research in the U.S., a growing coalition of 54 Chambers of Commerce across the country formed "Business for Federal Research Funding" to call for increased research funding in the federal budget. This new coalition is focusing attention on how federal support for science is imperative to the nation's economic growth.

We urge Members of the U.S. Senate to support the funding levels for NSF that passed the full Appropriations Committee with bipartisan support. We also urge Members to oppose any amendments that undermine the NSF programs funded through the bill, including amendments that undercut important areas of basic science research such as Geosciences or Behavioral and Social Sciences; STEM education research through the Education and Human Resources Directorate; or individual grants that have been deemed meritorious by independent scientific review panels.

We appreciate Chairwoman Mikulski's and Ranking Member Shelby's longstanding commitment to basic science research at NSF, and urge Members to support the NSF provisions found in the FY 2015 CJS Appropriations bill.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is an alliance of over 140 professional societies, universities, and corporations advocating support for the National Science Foundation.

Coalition For National Science Funding

Afterschool Alliance
American Anthropological Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Geosciences Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical 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 Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arafune Government Relations Group
Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS)
Associated Universities, Inc.
Association for Psychological Science
Association for the Sciences of Limnology & Oceanography
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA)
Association of University Research Parks
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Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, LLC
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Genetics Society of America
Geological Society of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
IRIS Consortium
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA)
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Linguistic Society of America
Madison Associates LLC
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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Museum of Science, Boston
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National Communication Association
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)
National Ground Water Association
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The Ohio State University
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Oregon State University
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Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
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Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Soil Science Society of America
SPIE
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State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stevens Institute of Technology
Texas Tech University
Tufts University
UNAVCO
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of California
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University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado, Boulder
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University of Illinois
University of Michigan
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