

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2013

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

We write to urge you to include \$7.626 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the FY2014 Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The United States faces a daunting challenge if we are to continue to compete globally in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related industries. More than 20 countries are currently outperforming American students on international science assessments and graduating a higher percentage of students in science and engineering fields. Funding from the NSF is one of our country's most important workforce development initiatives. According to Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, STEM jobs in the U.S. are predicted to increase to 8.55 million in 2018, or 17 percent greater than in 2008. To meet these demands we must produce approximately one million more STEM professionals over the next ten years. The NSF is the only federal agency specifically responsible for supporting essential education and research across all science and engineering fields—a role that is vital to cultivating a workforce capable of keeping pace with global demand.

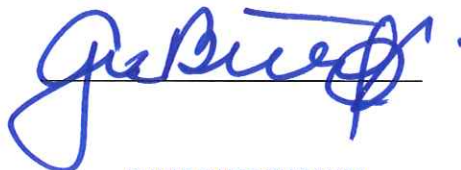
Funding from the NSF supports one fifth of all federally funded basic research at colleges and universities throughout the United States. The NSF awards the majority of its budget on a competitive basis to small groups of researchers at public and private institutions of higher learning through approximately 11,000 new grant awards per year.

Awards from the NSF helps enable faculty and students to access the resources they need and support the necessary infrastructure and tools to address some of our society's most pressing concerns. In many cases, the basic research facilitated by the NSF is expanded upon and applied commercially by U.S. companies. The applications of NSF research have helped many businesses create jobs by developing new products from advanced radar systems and next generation high definition videoconferencing to more efficient and affordable solar energy materials and genetically engineered tissues for medical procedures.

We must remain committed to strengthening our workforce and competing with countries that are investing their resources in STEM education and innovation. We urge you to fund the NSF at the requested \$7.626 billion funding level to ensure that we continue to develop a reliable pipeline of STEM talent so that the United States remains globally competitive.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



(cosigners follow)

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Jim

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