



January 23, 2019

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Republican Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Trump and Congressional Leaders:

As members of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, businesses, universities, and scientific societies that advocate for sustained, robust federal support for the National Science Foundation (NSF) – we are writing to express our serious concerns about the impact of the government shutdown on America’s research enterprise.

CNSF urges you to end the government shutdown and enact a Fiscal Year 2019 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill with at least \$8.175 billion in funding for the NSF.

NSF-funded research has been invaluable to ensuring that the United States remains a leader globally in science and innovation, fueling the nation’s economy. The government shutdown is already starting to have an impact on the NSF-funded research conducted at the nation’s universities and research institutions. A further prolonged government shutdown will have additional serious, detrimental, and long-lasting consequences for the nation’s scientific enterprise and will threaten investments made toward advancing research and education.

NSF’s merit review process remains the gold standard for selecting the most innovative research projects across all disciplines of science. Since December 21, 2018, however, more than 70 scheduled review panels have been either cancelled or postponed because of the shutdown. This significant disruption in the review process means that new research projects will not get started, undergraduate and graduate students will not get funded, and the mission of the Foundation will be put on hold. Furthermore, NSF-funded major user facilities such as the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) will approach the limits of available funding should this shutdown continue. These and other NSF-

funded user facilities are essential to the research conducted by the scientific community, which includes users from other agencies such as the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.

This shutdown is personally impacting members of the scientific community. Senior scientists are questioning how to pay their postdoctoral researchers, and some postdocs and fellows, many of whom are early in their careers, are not getting paid at all. Indeed, the shutdown is not only affecting the overall research enterprise but is taking a personal toll on those who are vital to its success.

A government shutdown greatly impedes the agency's ability to make funding decisions, suspends new and ongoing research projects and slows the development of training the next generation of scientists and engineers. If the government shutdown continues it will have a cascading effect on the nation's security and economy, endangering years of critical investments. It is important for the president and Congress to expeditiously reopen the government and complete the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations process.

Sincerely,  
Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Geographers  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Geosciences Institute  
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 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, LLC  
Archaeological Institute of America  
Associated Universities, Inc.

Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
Battelle  
Biophysical Society  
Boise State University  
Bose Washington Partners, LLC  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
California Institute of Technology

Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis  
Associates, LLC  
Computing Research  
Association  
Consortium for Ocean  
Leadership  
Consortium of Social  
Science Associations  
Consortium of Universities  
for the Advancement of  
Hydrologic Science Inc.  
Cornell University  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council On Governmental  
Relations  
Council on Undergraduate  
Research  
Crop Science Society of  
America  
Duke University  
Eastman  
Ecological Society of  
America  
Entomological Society of  
America  
Eversole Associates  
Federation of American  
Societies for Experimental  
Biology  
Federation of Associations  
in Behavioral & Brain  
Sciences  
Florida State University  
Geological Society of  
America  
George Mason University  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology  
Harvard University  
Human Factors and  
Ergonomics Society  
Incorporated Research  
Institutions for Seismology  
Indiana University

Institute of Electrical and  
Electronics Engineers-USA  
Lehigh University  
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC  
Linguistic Society of  
America  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Materials Research Society  
Mathematical Association  
of America  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological  
University  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Association of  
Marine Laboratories  
National Communication  
Association  
National Postdoctoral  
Association  
National Science Teachers  
Association  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Oregon State University  
OSA, The Optical Society  
Pennsylvania State  
University  
Population Association of  
America/ Association of  
Population Centers  
Princeton University  
Psychonomic Society  
Rensselaer Polytechnic  
Institute  
Research! America  
Rutgers University-New  
Brunswick  
SAGE Publishing  
Saint Louis University  
Seismological Society of  
America

Society for Advancement of  
Chicanos/Hispanics and  
Native Americans in Science  
Society for American  
Archaeology  
Society for Industrial and  
Applied Mathematics  
Society for Industrial and  
Organizational Psychology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in  
Child Development  
Soil Science Society of  
America  
SPIE  
Stevens Institute of  
Technology  
Stony Brook, The State  
University of New York  
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The Ohio State University  
The State University of New  
York System  
The University of  
Wisconsin-Madison  
UNAVCO  
University of California  
System  
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Boulder  
University of Florida  
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University of Maryland,  
College Park  
University of Michigan  
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University of Pittsburgh  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington State  
University  
West Virginia University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic  
Institution