

March 21, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) appreciates that you have included the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the American Competitiveness Initiative and have allotted \$6.02 billion for the FY 2007 NSF budget in the Administration Budget Request. As has been true of past investments in the NSF, this new investment will pave the way for indispensable future knowledge, technologies, and industries. NSF-funded research has contributed to or directly resulted in major innovations having profound economic impact. NSF-supported fundamental research has affected hundreds of innovations. For example, NSF basic research has:

- Led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which is used widely to detect disease such as cancer as well as assess internal organ, tissue, and structural conditions. It is predicted to be a \$110 billion industry by 2007. Functional MRI (fMRI) has uncovered normal functioning of internal organs and the nervous system and is leading to applications in health, including recovery of lost senses such as hearing.
- Revealed a previously unknown microbiology world in extreme environments, leading to the basis for the development of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which made genome sequencing practical and fueled the revolution in biotechnology. The latter industry has annual revenues of about \$40 billion.
- Allowed graduate students to discover a better way of searching data on the Internet. The students used their idea to found Google, Inc., a \$50 billion company employing more than 2,000 people.
- Fostered a unique melding of geography and computer science in the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which are used extensively by technologists to develop revolutionary navigational technologies, and by businesses to provide better services to customers, by police, and other government officials and non-government first-responders who prepare for and react to disasters, reduce crime, and provide useful public services.

Global competition increasingly requires the United States to make the necessary investments in science and engineering research and education. The NSF is an agency that is well-suited to receive such investments as it supports science broadly, encourages interdisciplinary interactions and collaborations between universities and industry. These investments will help ensure our country's ability to compete at the highest levels.

Thank you again, Mr. President, for recognizing how necessary federal support of science and engineering research and education is to our ability to be economically competitive and how important the NSF is to this cause. We look forward to working with you and Congress to ensure this important investment in the NSF and in America's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Rankin, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Samuel M. Rankin, III
CNSF Chair

CNSF Members Who Signed on to Letter to President Bush on FY2007 Budget Request

Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America (ASTRA)
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geological Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Society
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Limnology & Oceanography
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS)
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA)
Association of University Research Parks
Battelle Memorial Institute
Biophysical Society
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Drilling, Observation and Sampling of the Earth's Continental Crust Inc. (DOSECC, Inc.)
Duke University
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
EDUCAUSE
Estuarine Research Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological & Cognitive Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Geological Society of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA)
Institute of Food Technologists
Joint Oceanographic Institutions
Jordan Burt LLP
Kent State University
Lewis-Burke Associates
Linguistic Society of America
Louisiana State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Microsoft Corporation
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
National Corn Growers Association
National Council for Science & the Environment
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Natural Science Collections Alliance
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Optical Society of America
Oregon State University
Ornithological Council
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Protein Society
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers University
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Soil Science Society of America
State University of New York at Stony Brook
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of California
University of Cincinnati
University of Florida
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
University of Tennessee
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution