

September 10, 2008

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is writing to express concern that an extended Continuing Resolution (CR) for the FY 2009 appropriations will hamper the National Science Foundation's (NSF) ability to carry out programmatic plans and will create hardships and uncertainty for students and researchers.

**We urge you to provide the NSF with a total FY 2009 budget of \$6.854 billion in any extended CR.**

CNSF is grateful to you and the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate for providing the National Science Foundation with an FY 2009 budget of \$6.854 billion, the same level as the Administration's budget request. We also thank you for providing funds for NSF in the recent Supplemental Appropriations Act. CNSF appreciates this acknowledgment of the importance of NSF to technological progress and U.S. competitiveness through its support of science, mathematics and engineering research and education.

During the FY 2008 appropriations process, the House and Senate initially provided NSF with a ten percent boost over FY 2007. Unfortunately, in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act this increase shrank to 2.5 percent. As a result of the unanticipated reduction in the NSF budget increase, the agency had to make the following significant cutbacks and changes in program plans during FY 2008: 1,000 fewer grants to researchers; 230 fewer graduate fellowships; delay major program solicitations; reduce support for facilities; and reduce support of both the Faculty Early Career Development and Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs. Even though the NSF received \$62.5 million in the recent FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act, these funds were, for the most part, designated to specific programs and therefore do not alleviate the serious cutbacks listed above.

A CR that does not contain a total budget of \$6.854 billion for NSF will further contribute to the erosion of the agency's ability to fund programs that are necessary to maintain the nation's technological leadership and competitiveness. At a time when many have acknowledged how important it is that the

United States extend its competitive edge and prepare more students for scientific professions, we cannot afford continuing instability in the availability of funding for researchers, undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral science, mathematics and engineering students. Eventually this year-over-year unevenness in funding will cause students and experienced professionals to consider other careers.

We know that you understand the value of NSF to science, mathematics and engineering research and education. You have demonstrated this often and it is for this reason that we ask for your support for this request.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to help NSF remain the premier basic research and science education agency in the world.

Sincerely,

*American Astronomical Society*  
*American Chemical Society*  
*American Educational Research Association*  
*American Geological 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 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 Limnology and Oceanography*  
*American Society of Plant Biologists*  
*American Sociological Association*  
*American Statistical Association*  
*Arctic Research Consortium*  
*ASME*  
*Association for Psychological Science*  
*Association of Population Centers*  
*Association of Research Libraries*  
*Association of Science-Technology Centers*  
*Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy*  
*ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America*  
*Ball State University*

*Belle W Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences*  
*Biophysical Society*  
*California Institute of Technology*  
*Center for Inquiry*  
*Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation*  
*Colgate University*  
*Computing Research Association*  
*Consortium of Social Science Associations*  
*Consortium for Ocean Leadership*  
*Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Inc.*  
*Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado*  
*Council of Environmental Deans and Directors*  
*Council on Undergraduate Research*  
*Crop Science Society of America*  
*Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University*  
*Department of Earth Sciences, Millersville University*  
*DOSECC Inc.*  
*Earthquake Engineering Research Institute*  
*Ecological Society of America*  
*EDUCAUSE*  
*Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology*  
  
*Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences*  
*Florida Atlantic University*  
*Florida State University*  
*Geological Society of America*

*Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics  
Engineers (IEEE)  
Institute of Food Technologists  
Linguistic Society of America  
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium  
Materials Research Society  
Mathematical Association of America  
Michigan State University  
Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
National Center for Technological Literacy  
National Council for Science and the  
Environment  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
North Carolina State University  
Oceanic Institute  
Optical Society of America  
Oregon State University  
Population Association of America  
Shoals Marine Laboratory  
Skidaway Institute for Oceanography  
Smith College  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Soil Science Society of America*

*South Dakota School of Mines & Technology --  
Department of Atmospheric Sciences  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
Texas A&M University  
The Weather Coalition  
University Corporation for Atmospheric  
Research  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Connecticut Marine Programs  
University of Delaware  
University of Hawaii  
University of Idaho  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign --  
Department of Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Miami - Rosenstiel School of  
Marine and Atmospheric Science  
University of Minnesota Duluth- Large Lakes  
Observatory  
University of Missouri - Department of Soil,  
Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences  
University of New England Marine Science  
Center  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Texas Marine Science Institute  
University of Toledo  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Great  
Lakes WATER Institute  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*