

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

We are writing to ask you to support at least the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 request of \$6.85 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF). This level of support is still significantly short of the \$7.33 billion authorized for the NSF in FY 2009 by the America COMPETES ACT (P.L. 110-69) and is only 6.5 percent over the FY 2008 Budget Request.

The NSF has received strong bipartisan support in Congress due to the fact that NSF investments in research and education have continuously returned exceptional dividends to the American people. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved strong budget levels for the NSF in the first session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Globalization has amplified worldwide competition for scientific discovery, technological innovation, talent, and leadership making it imperative that the U.S. support the NSF adequately.

Passage of the America COMPETES Act demonstrates that both the Congress and the Administration are committed to making the vital federal investments necessary to ensure a strong and dynamic U.S. economy for our future. However, the FY 2008 budget for the NSF is disappointing in that it is not even an inflationary increase over the FY 2007 budget and is well under the FY 2008 COMPETES' authorized level and the FY 2008 Budget Request. The NSF budget needs to be on a track that will guarantee that the U.S. will remain a major technological force.

The NSF is a sensible investment of federal dollars as the agency earns exemplary budgetary performance scores, and all grants are awarded through a peer-review process. The NSF is unique in that a small federal investment in research has the potential to yield immeasurable benefits to society.

We would be glad to furnish additional information; please have your office contact \_\_\_ with Senator Lieberman or \_\_\_ with Senator Bond.

Sincerely,