

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

We are writing to request that you uphold the President's budget request for the National Science Foundation (NSF). For FY 2008, the Administration's budget allocates \$6.43 billion to the NSF, a 7.8% increase over the FY 2007 NSF budget.

As you know, the NSF has suffered from budgetary constraints in recent years, and even experienced budget reductions in FY 2005. Due to your foresight, the NSF was saved from a budget crisis in FY 2007. Your hard work in preserving the original subcommittee request of \$5.99 billion has kept the goal of doubling basic research investment over ten years a reality.

Increased funding for NSF is critical for our nation's universities. The NSF provides 20 percent of all federally funded research dollars for America's institutions of higher learning. NSF funding also promotes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in the United States.

It is vital to our nation's future economic prosperity and security that we renew and refocus our attention to basic scientific research, science and engineering education, graduate education, and the policies that encourage innovation. The rapidly changing world of commerce and science demands that we take action if we hope to remain the world's recognized economic and innovation leader.

Additional funding for the NSF helps enable the development of innovative technologies, and provided an educated workforce that is at the heart of our economy. This, coupled with other federal research and aggressive private investments in scientific and technological research has resulted in a dynamic, robust, and growing economy that is the envy of the world. As the 21<sup>st</sup> Century blossoms, we must revitalize our commitment to strengthen the pillars of American innovation and competitiveness – basic research and education.



Sen. Christopher Bond

Sincerely,



Sen. Joseph Lieberman

Tom Hark

Nurs Feight

Jay Ruppel

Dick Durb

Chuck Schum

Rabit Mering

Herb Kohl

Nellie Stenew

Barbara Bush

Pat Robat

Maria Casassa

Ron Wyden

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chris Dodd

Tom F. Kelly

Edward M Kennedy

Genrikh Atoga

John Z. Sauer

Carl Levin

Olympian Jones

Bob

PTB

James Christen

Sam Wainwright

MM

Bob Carey, Jr.

Jo Testa

Ch. Sita

George V. Kenovich

Norm Coleman

William G. Hatch

Elizabeth Dole

Ken Salazar

Joe Biden

Barack Obama

Bill Nelson

Angie Klobuchar

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~~Joe Biden~~

Joe Biden

Daniel X. Claitor

Max Baucus

Eric Bozell

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