March 28, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Russell Vought
Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
317 Russell 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 Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Mulvaney, Acting Director Vought, Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, scientific societies, and businesses – strongly supports the enactment of a two-year bipartisan budget agreement that increases the spending caps for discretionary programs. Our country needs a bipartisan budget agreement to maintain key federal investments in America’s science and engineering enterprise.

For the 130 member groups of CNSF, strong and sustainable funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) is a high priority, especially if the United States is to remain a global innovation leader. NSF-funded research has proven vital to the nation’s economic growth, national security, and overall global competitiveness in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) development and education. Moreover, NSF programs enable the scientific work of other federal agencies and departments.

A bold approach to NSF funding is necessary in FY 2020 to provide needed support for potentially transformational Big Ideas initiatives, protect core programs that sustain broad science and engineering fields, build and operate world-class research infrastructure, and train the future STEM workforce for the United States to remain globally competitive. NSF funds research in important fields – including the physical sciences, biology, mathematics, computer science, geoscience, social and behavioral science, engineering and education – and prepares the next generation of STEM workers by funding traineeships, research fellowships, and investments in K-12 STEM education both in and out of school.

The reemergence of the spending caps in FY 2020 would have a detrimental effect on this work and overall federally funded scientific research, particularly as other nations are making significant investments in comparable research. We stand ready to work with you in hopes that Congress will pass and the President will sign a two-year bipartisan budget agreement to increase spending caps for discretionary programs in FY 2020.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)
Acoustical Society of America
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Economic Association
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 Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
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 Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arafune Government Relations, LLC
Archaeological Institute of America
Arizona State University Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
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
Bagley Group, LLC
Battelle Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Boze Washington Partners, LLC
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, LLC
Computing Research Association
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
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
IEEE-USA
Illinois Institute of Technology Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
Indiana University
Knowledge Alliance
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
OSA, The Optical Society
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Psychonomic Society
PsySiP Project
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 Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Soil Science Society of America
SPIE
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook, The State University of New York
Texas Tech University
The Ohio State University
The State University of New York System
The University of Wisconsin-Madison
University Corp for Atmospheric Research
University of California System
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois System
University of Iowa
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
Vanderbilt University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution