



January 23, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
322 Hart 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 Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Trump and Congressional Leaders:

As members of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, businesses, universities, and scientific societies that advocate for sustained, robust federal support for the National Science Foundation (NSF) – we are writing to express our serious concerns about the impact of the government shutdown on America’s research enterprise.

CNSF urges you to end the government shutdown and enact a Fiscal Year 2019 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill with at least \$8.175 billion in funding for the NSF.

NSF-funded research has been invaluable to ensuring that the United States remains a leader globally in science and innovation, fueling the nation’s economy. The government shutdown is already starting to have an impact on the NSF-funded research conducted at the nation’s universities and research institutions. A further prolonged government shutdown will have additional serious, detrimental, and long-lasting consequences for the nation’s scientific enterprise and will threaten investments made toward advancing research and education.

NSF’s merit review process remains the gold standard for selecting the most innovative research projects across all disciplines of science. Since December 21, 2018, however, more than 70 scheduled review panels have been either cancelled or postponed because of the shutdown. This significant disruption in the review process means that new research projects will not get started, undergraduate and graduate students will not get funded, and the mission of the Foundation will be put on hold. Furthermore, NSF-funded major user facilities such as the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) will approach the limits of available funding should this shutdown continue. These and other NSF-

funded user facilities are essential to the research conducted by the scientific community, which includes users from other agencies such as the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.

This shutdown is personally impacting members of the scientific community. Senior scientists are questioning how to pay their postdoctoral researchers, and some postdocs and fellows, many of whom are early in their careers, are not getting paid at all. Indeed, the shutdown is not only affecting the overall research enterprise but is taking a personal toll on those who are vital to its success.

A government shutdown greatly impedes the agency's ability to make funding decisions, suspends new and ongoing research projects and slows the development of training the next generation of scientists and engineers. If the government shutdown continues it will have a cascading effect on the nation's security and economy, endangering years of critical investments. It is important for the president and Congress to expeditiously reopen the government and complete the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations process.

Sincerely,
Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
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 Physiological Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
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
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Archaeological Institute of America
Associated Universities, Inc.

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Association for Women in Mathematics
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
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Hydrologic Science Inc.
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Council On Governmental
Relations
Council on Undergraduate
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Crop Science Society of
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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
Georgia Institute of
Technology
Harvard University
Human Factors and
Ergonomics Society
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Institutions for Seismology
Indiana University

Institute of Electrical and
Electronics Engineers-USA
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
Oregon State University
OSA, The Optical Society
Pennsylvania State
University
Population Association of
America/ Association of
Population Centers
Princeton University
Psychonomic Society
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Society for Advancement of
Chicanos/Hispanics and
Native Americans in Science
Society for American
Archaeology
Society for Industrial and
Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and
Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in
Child Development
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
UNAVCO
University of California
System
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