



December 2016

Dear President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Pence:

The Coalition for National Science Funding ([CNSF](#)) is an alliance of 130 professional organizations, scientific societies, universities and businesses united in our advocacy for the National Science Foundation (NSF). CNSF supports the goal of increasing the national investment in NSF-funded research and education programs in response to the scientific, technological, and economic challenges facing the United States. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you and your administration to make robust federal investment in fundamental scientific research, such as the research supported by NSF, a national priority.

For the last 60 years, NSF has been an integral part of America's scientific research enterprise. It is the mission of the agency "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense." Given its mission, NSF-funded research has led to the development of ground-breaking technologies, such as the Internet, Doppler radar, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, DNA finger printing, barcodes, sensing technologies that can help detect diseases, and so much more. Moreover, the research supported by NSF has led to the development of key components found in the smart phones we all use every day. Simply put, NSF-funded research continues to improve the lives of Americans through the advancement in science, engineering, and innovation.

The success of the United States in these areas has not gone unnoticed by other nations. In fact, many competitor nations are trying to replicate our success. Unfortunately, over the course of the last decade, the United States has been effectively holding our federal research funding flat, while competitors such as China and South Korea have been boosting their investment in research and technology development. Moreover, our competitors are trying to replicate the very successful NSF merit review process, which is viewed as the international gold-standard for evaluating scientific research proposals. If we are to remain at the forefront of scientific progress and technological innovation, we must make federal funding for scientific research a national priority and provide robust and sustainable funding for the nation's scientific research enterprise.

During the campaign, you responded to a series of [questions](#) posed by representatives of the scientific community. When asked about long-term investment in federally funded scientific research, you responded by saying that "scientific advances do require long-term investment" and "that we must have programs such as a viable space program and institutional research that serves as incubators to innovation and the advancement of science and engineering in a number

of fields.” CNSF agrees with you. Indeed, long-term investment in all fields of study are essential to the nation’s continued advancement in science, engineering, and innovation.

In the following document, we would like to submit recommendations to you and your transition team. We certainly appreciate your consideration of these suggested actions and welcome the opportunity to work with the administration to realize the recommendations included in this transition document. Your transition team may contact Amy Scott at amy_scott@au.edu or Erin Heath at eh Heath@aaas.org.

Sincerely,

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