

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Shelby, and Vice Chair Leahy:

We are writing to urge you to provide the highest possible fiscal year (FY) 2021 allocation for the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittees, at least equal to the FY 2020 allocation and sufficient to fully fund the basic and applied research programs in the CJS portfolio. The bill includes agencies and departments that are vital to the advancement of science, technology, economic development, and criminal justice. These include the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the Department of Commerce statistical agencies, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs.

Strong funding for the CJS bill is necessary for the United States to maintain its global lead in science and technology. According to the 2020 *Science and Engineering Indicators* report, while the US remains at the forefront of research, spending \$548 billion on research and development (R&D) in 2017, other nations have dramatically increased their investments in science. For example, between 2010 and 2017, China's R&D enterprise grew by 13 percent annually and South Korea's grew by 8 percent annually. In comparison, U.S. R&D expenditures increased by only about 4 percent per year over this same period. China is now likely to surpass us in total spending, threatening our science and technology leadership in fields such as artificial intelligence, space exploration, quantum computing, and other areas.

In addition to increased competition in the realm of science and technology, our nation faces immense environmental challenges. The CJS research agencies play a central role in understanding and predicting global and regional changes; developing new technologies to improve resilience; and providing life-saving weather forecasts. NSF, NASA, and NOAA together fund over 60 percent of our nation's federal investments in environmental research and development as well as funding a large portion of our civilian observational capabilities. Additionally, there is an ever-increasing need for the disaster resilience research headed by

NIST, including investment in post-disaster impact research and pre-impact mitigation, whether from high-winds, fire, or flood.

A robust CJS allocation will also allow the Commerce Department to provide vital funding to offices that support the U.S. economy. Commerce Department programs produce detailed analyses that are indispensable for understanding our multitrillion-dollar economy. Our nation must sustain these and other efforts, including successful conclusion of the 2020 Census and the dissemination of high quality socioeconomic and demographic decennial census data that scientists will use throughout the next decade to inform basic, clinical, and applied research and research training activities.

The CJS bill includes critical research that supports law enforcement and criminal justice. In recent years, there has been increased demand for objective research regarding policing, prison and sentencing reform, mental health, addiction and community-trust building activities. Research funded by DOJ is central to our understanding of these issues and sound policymaking. Increasing the allocation for CJS will help to provide additional resources for these essential DOJ research programs.

In sum, the federal government has a unique role in funding the R&D crucial for our national needs, but the federal share of R&D spending as a percentage of GDP is now at its lowest point since the 1950s. The CJS bill is singularly responsible for determining over 50 percent of the annual federal investment in non-defense, non-biomedical research – research that is essential for our long-term economic growth, security, and prosperity.

Given the importance of federal support for R&D and the vital role played by the CJS Subcommittees in funding a substantial portion of this research, we urge you and your colleagues to do everything you can to ensure a sufficient CJS 302(b) allocation. Doing so will allow the Subcommittees to support the R&D investments necessary to meet our nation's challenges and opportunities.

Sincerely,

The Census Project  
Coalition for Aerospace and Science  
Coalition for National Science Funding  
Crime and Justice Research Alliance  
The NIST Coalition

AASRO (Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations)  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Geographers  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Astronomical Society  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Annis Water Resources Institute - Grand Valley State University  
Arafune Government Relations, LLC  
Associated Universities Inc.  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)  
Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC)  
Battelle  
Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (New York and Bermuda)  
Biophysical Society  
Boise State University  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
California Institute of Technology  
California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology  
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates  
Center for Coastal Studies  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cornell University  
Council for Community Economic Research  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Crop Science Society of America

Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
Department of Geography and Meteorology, Valparaiso University  
Department of Ocean, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Old Dominion University  
Duke University  
EarthCorps  
Earthjustice  
East Carolina University - Integrated Coastal Programs  
Eastman  
Ecological Society of America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Eversole Associates  
FAU HBOI  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences  
Florida State University  
Galveston Bay Foundation  
Geological Society of America  
George Mason University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Harvard University  
Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University  
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)  
Independent Organizational Development Consultant  
Indiana University  
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
IOOS Association  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lehigh University  
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC  
Linguistic Society of America  
Marine Biological Laboratory  
Marine Conservation Institute  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Mathematical Association of America  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Mineralogical Society of America  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
National Communication Association  
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association  
National Science Teachers Association

NC State University/CMAST  
Northeastern University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northern Vermont University-Lyndon  
Northview Weather LLC  
Northwestern University  
Ocean Conservancy  
The Ohio State University  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Princeton University  
Psychonomic Society  
PsySiP: Psychology of Science in Policy  
Purdue University  
Research!America  
Restore America's Estuaries  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
SAGE Publishing  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
Sea Grant Association  
Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)  
SOEST, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Soil Science Society of America  
SPIE  
St. Louis University  
State University of New York System (SUNY)  
Stockton University  
Stony Brook University  
Tufts University  
University of California System  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
US Ignite  
USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies  
Vanderbilt University  
Verizon  
Virginia Alliance of Public Research and Land-Grant Universities  
Washington State University  
West Virginia University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University