Dear Member of Congress:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) members listed below write to strongly urge passage of a fiscal year (FY)2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill this year, rather than a continuing resolution based on the FY2014 appropriations levels. The 113th Congress has an important opportunity to continue its commitment to investing in America’s research enterprise by providing sustainable funding for NSF in an FY2015 Omnibus bill.

The NSF has long enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support for its science, engineering, and education programs. Your continued commitment to NSF is essential at a time when federal investments in research agencies are not keeping pace with inflation, and our foreign competitors are making significant investments in science and engineering research and education. In recent years, China and other nations have been rapidly increasing their investments in all fields of scientific research while American investment has started to stagnate. This has created an innovation deficit in the United States. The innovation deficit is the widening gap between the actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world’s innovation leader. To close the innovation deficit and maintain our position of leadership, we must continue to make strong and sustainable investments in our research enterprise. We can start by passing an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill which provides increased funding for NSF.

As the only federal agency with the unique mission of “the promotion of scientific progress across all of the scientific and engineering disciplines,” the agency needs sustained federal investment to fulfill its mission. We therefore urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill that funds the agency at $7.4 billion, the level included in the House-passed FY2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill. This represents a modest three percent increase over the NSF’s FY2014 funding level.

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to the basic scientific research, engineering, and education programs supported by NSF. As Congress begins to work on an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill, we certainly hope that funding for NSF is amongst your highest priorities.

Sincerely,
American Association for Dental Research
American Anthropological Association
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 Meteorological Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Cognitive Science Society
Columbia University
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Geological Society of America
Linguistic Society of America
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Ground Water Association
Natural Science Collections Alliance
Northwestern University
Optical Society of America
Psychonomic Society
Research!America
SAGE Publications
Society for Computers in Psychology
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Text and Discourse
Society of Experimental Social Psychology
Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology
The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
The Ohio State University
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Illinois
University of New Mexico
Vanderbilt University