

May 31st, 2024

The Hon. Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cole, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins,

Thank you for the time and energy you have devoted to negotiating a budget compromise and for your continued work to manage the annual appropriations process. As you move toward approving final funding levels for FY25, we urge you to take this opportunity to protect the nation's economic security and the well-being of the American people through robust funding of science and technology.

As co-chairs of the Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC), a non-partisan coalition of non-profit, academic, foundation, and business leaders, we are staunch advocates for federal investment in research and development.

In a world constantly being transformed by advances in science and technology, it is deeply concerning that government funding for research and development has declined to just 0.7% of our GDP, dramatically lower than our historical peak of nearly 2%. Meanwhile, China and other competitors are aggressively increasing their investments, and are on pace to surpass the U.S. as the world's leader in science and technology. Increased funding of R&D is an economic and societal imperative if we are to keep pace with global competitors.

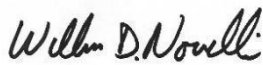
The President's FY 2025 Budget Request of \$10.183 billion for the National Science Foundation is an essential investment in critical areas of research, education, discovery, and innovation that will make it possible to accelerate our progress, prosperity, and competitiveness. In a recent [Axios](#) article, AI professionals say they are working to overcome old-fashioned shortages – electricity, computing power, chips, data, and engineering talent – and this scarcity in both resources and talent is among the top reasons U.S. AI companies are concerned about maintaining our edge over China.

The American people understand the importance of government funding for science and technology to our future economy. A recent national survey commissioned by STAC, included in STAC's December 2023 [State of Science in America](#) report found that 70% of respondents believe federal funding of S&T is so important it should be protected from budget cuts. In the same survey, more than three-quarters of respondents say the U.S. is losing - or has already lost - its status as a global leader in science and technology. In fact, 60% of respondents say China, not the U.S., will be the global leader within five years.

We need to meet this moment by advancing U.S. science and technology capabilities. Doing so will ensure that technologies lead to transformational improvements in health, wellness, quality of life, and security. By funding key investments in science and technology, we can fuel innovations, strengthen domestic supply chains, and build a robust talent pipeline of STEM workers — all high priorities with tremendous bipartisan support. These investments will make our country safer and stronger, ensuring that new technological advancements are created here — not overseas.

Thank you again, Chair Cole, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins, for considering this request and for your efforts, and those of your respective staff members, on behalf of us all.

Sincerely,



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Keith Yamamoto  
Vice Chancellor for  
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Mary Woolley  
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