

September 1, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington D.C. 20515

Representative Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As leaders in US industry, academia, science, and technology, we urge you to provide robust funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in any forthcoming infrastructure and fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations legislation. NSF is a critical part of our nation's innovation infrastructure. Large bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress have recognized the urgent need to invest in our science, engineering, and technology ecosystem to ensure our competitiveness and enable the innovation for a better future. Now, Congress must provide the actual funding for this effort to ensure our science and engineering ecosystem can respond to the challenges ahead.

We are in fierce competition with China as well as other nations that will shape the future of democracy, our nation, and the world. The future security and prosperity of the U.S. depends on our continued leadership in science and technology. Increased funding like that authorized in the bipartisan *US Innovation and Competition Act* and the *NSF for the Future Act* is absolutely critical to protecting our future and continuing to advance in fields like quantum, next generation wireless, clean energy, and the bioeconomy.

Funding both NSF's existing programs and its new directorate will help ensure that the U.S. can lead in new discoveries and in advancing key technologies in ways that will benefit the U.S. economy. Our country's leadership recognizes that increased funding for NSF is indispensable for America's future. It will strengthen our innovation infrastructure by expanding NSF's mission to enable research in critical technologies, enhanced partnerships across the country, and increased translation to power new industries.

Congress and the Administration have laid out a bold vision for NSF. Now is the time to make that vision a reality with funding. **We support \$10.2 billion for NSF in FY 2022 appropriations to bolster NSF's existing programs and jumpstart the essential efforts of the new directorate.** Yet this funding alone will not be enough. **In addition, we call on Congress and the Administration to robustly fund NSF in the infrastructure package, recognizing NSF's essential role in our nation's innovation infrastructure, enabling NSF's expanded mission, and fulfilling NSF's own research infrastructure needs.**

We stand at a critical juncture for our country. Only with robust investment can we ensure a robust innovation future to power economic growth and our nation's competitiveness. Thank you for your consideration; we look forward to your swift action.

Sincerely,

Signatures can be found at startwithnsf.org