



ADVANCING SCIENCE. SERVING SOCIETY

Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Publisher, *Science*

July 10, 2006

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice and Science
S-146A Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice and Science
144 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Shelby and Mikulski,

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest multidisciplinary science society in the world and the publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal, *Science*, we urge you to support a broad, balanced portfolio of R&D investments. As we said recently in testimony before the Senate Science and Space Subcommittee, "strong support across all scientific fields comes both from the increasing interdependence of physical, biological, behavioral, and social sciences, and from the importance of all these fields to innovation and to the improvement of the economy, health and quality of life of all Americans."

We understand that you will soon be considering the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill. AAAS fully supports efforts to provide substantial increases to the NSF and NIST budgets as part of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative. As the primary source of federal research funding in many disciplines, NSF plays a critical role supporting basic research that leads to discovery and innovation.

In addition, we encourage you to resist efforts to cut funding in other critical fields such as space science, aeronautics, and atmospheric and ocean sciences. These research areas, funded primarily by NOAA and NASA, contribute greatly to our understanding of the planet on which we live and yield insights with great relevance to other fields and broader scientific and societal questions. Given our increasing understanding of the human health, national security, and economic impacts associated with the oceanic and atmospheric processes, we know that an investment in these fields will help contribute to the Nation's future growth.

We recognize that Congress faces many competing priorities as it formulates the budget and we respectfully urge you to consider proposals that will allow the Congress to support research across agencies and disciplines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Leshner', written over a horizontal line.

Alan I. Leshner