



Alan I. Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer and  
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January 11, 2007

Mr. Joshua B. Bolten  
Assistant to the President and  
Chief of Staff  
Executive Office of the President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Karl Rove  
Assistant to the President and  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Executive Office of the President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Bolten and Mr Rove:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the nation's largest general scientific organization, I am writing to ask for your continued support of federal research and development (R&D) funding as you work with the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to complete the fiscal year 2007 appropriations continuing resolution within the next month.

Both President Bush and Congress support increasing funding for the physical sciences, as articulated in the Administration's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). Appropriators in both the House and Senate fully funded the ACI request to increase funding at the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy Office of Science, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) laboratories.

Furthermore, Congress united to pass legislation to reauthorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a bill that allows for a six percent increase in FY 2007. These initiatives reflect a balanced portfolio of R&D investments and recognition of the important interaction of the physical, biological, behavioral, and social sciences; each of which contributes to innovation and to the improvement of the economy, health, education and quality of life of all Americans.

We recognize that both the Administration and Congress face many competing priorities as it formulates the budget. Nonetheless, we urge you to invest in these key agencies and provide them with the increased level of funding for fiscal year 2007 as requested in your ACI vision and the NIH reauthorization. Our nation's ability to cultivate innovation, to compete in the global marketplace, to educate our children, and to safeguard public health depends on it.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner