



Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
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February 9, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

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 support of federal research and development (R&D) funding as you prepare to consider the Joint Funding Resolution (H.J.Res. 20) to complete the fiscal year 2007 appropriations process.

Both Congress and the Administration support increasing funding for basic research. The joint resolution recently passed by the House honors that commitment and provides increased funding at the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) laboratories, and the National Institutes of Health.

Federal support for these agencies reflects a balanced portfolio of R&D investments and 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 Congress faces many competing priorities as it formulates the budget. However, we request that you provide these agencies with the increased level of funding for fiscal year 2007 as articulated in the Joint Funding Resolution.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner

cc: Mark Wetjen