



November 15, 2016

**Rush D. Holt**

Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Publisher, *Science*

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Democratic Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell and Reid,

As the Congress returns from the general election to work on final FY 2017 appropriations beyond the current continuing resolution, I write on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to urge you to complete the strong, bipartisan work already completed in both chambers to develop and move appropriations bills through their respective Appropriations Committees.

The suite of bills already passed would increase federal research & development (R&D) funding by an estimated 2.1% above FY 2016 levels in the House and 3.2% above FY 2016 levels in the Senate, slightly above the rate of inflation, according to an independent analysis by the AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program. This real growth in federal investment in R&D is crucial fuel for the innovation engines that grow our economy, enhance our safety and security, and expand human knowledge.

AAAS believes that strong and stable funding for research is essential to addressing many of our nation's challenges. And that is why we strongly support the *Innovation: An American Imperative* statement, a set of principles for enhancing America's innovation ecosystem endorsed by more than 500 organizations representing industry, higher-education, and leading science and engineering societies. The principles call for real growth for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, NASA, and other research agencies as a key element of maintaining U.S innovation and competitiveness.

We urge you to complete the work on FY 2017 appropriations and reach final compromise legislation that funds all federal science agencies at robust levels and avoids further continuing resolutions that impede agencies' efforts to plan ahead and support vital, long-term basic research.

Sincerely,

Rush D. Holt  
Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Publisher, *Science*

cc: Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Barbara Mikulski, Vice Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Appropriations