



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

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The Honorable Frank Wolf

The Honorable Chaka Fattah

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah,

I am writing on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to applaud your leadership and support for the FY 2015 budget for the National Science Foundation as reflected in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations for FY 2015. The bipartisan support for NSF basic research reflects a commitment to future generations of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

As the U.S. House of Representatives prepares to consider the CJS bill on the House floor, I write to remind all legislators that NSF's mission for more than 60 years has been to advance research across a broad spectrum of disciplines. This research has fueled American economic growth for decades, and it is important that Congress continue to support NSF in order to maintain our nation's continued economic prosperity.

NSF is unique among federal agencies in that it supports all disciplines in a balanced portfolio that uses the scientific peer review system as the foundation for awarding research grants based on merit. For this reason, we discourage lawmakers from considering amendments that would undermine the merit-evaluation process or attempt to eliminate or substantially reduce funding for specific areas of science such as the NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences and the Directorate for Geosciences.

As I have stated for many years, every major issue facing our society, including our economic competitiveness, will ultimately be multidisciplinary in nature. It will require the integration of the physical sciences or biological sciences with the social, behavioral, or political sciences.

Again, on behalf of AAAS I thank you for your support of the NSF and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Alan Leshner