

# Congress of the United States'

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2002

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-21 8 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 205 15

The Honorable David Obey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
10 16 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 205 15

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Obey:

As members of the California delegation, we are requesting your support for the nation's science portfolio. As you know, the federal government plays a key role in supporting basic scientific research and exploration. This assistance has enabled the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to sponsor research which has led to the development of several break-through technologies. These new technologies are at the heart of our homeland defense and our economic future. As you deliberate the funding allocations for FY2003, we hope that you will support allocations which will enable the appropriations subcommittees to provide substantial increases for NSF, NIH, DOE Office of Science, and NASA.

These four agencies played a major role in helping the nation respond to the multitude of threats following the events of September 11. From analyzing the anthrax materials to providing expertise in handling the hazardous materials at Ground Zero, these agencies responded with many of the techniques developed as a result of the federal investment in scientific research. It is necessary to continue this support to ensure that our nation develops the technology needed to protect itself from similar attacks.

Congress recognized the importance of biomedical research by supporting efforts to double the NIH budget over the next five years. However, this funding accomplishes only one portion of the research chain. The physical sciences (chemistry, mathematics, physics, astronomy and space exploration) supported by NSF, NASA and DOE are also inextricably linked to advances in medical care. Progress in the physical sciences leads to the development of technology which then enhances the diagnosis and treatment of our citizens.

In addition, science research and development drives the innovation for major segments of the economy, especially in California. We cannot underestimate the importance of federal science funding to our current and future economic health. It is from this government investment that great inventions flow inventions which have transformed the landscape of America, and will continue to do so.

With regard to NASA, it is imperative that the funding level provide significant increases for the Offices of Space Science and Earth Science. Similarly, NSF and DOE science funding must be sufficient to ensure that the nation is taking full advantage of the research infrastructure already in place.

In conclusion, we understand that you face significant challenges this budget year. Nevertheless, it is crucial that you support increased federal science funding allocations.

Sincerely,

Adam Schiff

David Drier

Max G. Shaoh

Pat Sp

Howard L. Berman

Bob Filner

Luigi Crippa

Cal Dooley

Anne Waters

Yunus

Nancy Pelosi

Chanel E. Watson

Michael Honda

Barbara Lee

Jane Harman

Ellen O'Toole

Tim Wu

Joe Breen

Brod Sherman

Joe F. Koptano

Hilda L. Solis

Jerry Lantz

George Miller

Ray Anderson

Ken Calvert

Lynn Woolley

Tom Lantz

Robert Metcalf

Lucille Kayser-Allard

Bill Lantz

Randy Lantz

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