

March 14, 2006

Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) appreciates that you have included the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the American Competitiveness Initiative and have allotted \$6.02 for the FY 2007 NSF budget in the Administration Budget Request. As has been true of past investments in the NSF, this new investment will pave the way for indispensable future knowledge, technologies, and industries. NSF-funded research has contributed to or directly resulted in major innovations having profound economic impact. NSF-supported fundamental research has affected hundreds of innovations. For example, NSF basic research has:

- Led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which is used widely to detect disease such as cancer as well as assess internal organ, tissue, and structural conditions. It is predicted to be a \$110-billion industry by 2007. Functional MRI (fMRI) has uncovered normal functioning of internal organs and the nervous system and is leading to applications in health including recovery of lost senses such as hearing.
- Revealed a previously unknown microbiology world in extreme environments, leading to the basis for the development of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which made genome sequencing practical and fueled the revolution in biotechnology. The latter industry has annual revenues of about \$40 billion.
- Allowed graduate students to discover a better way of searching data on the Internet. The students used their idea to found Google, Inc., a \$50-billion company employing more than 2,000 people.
- Fostered a unique melding of geography and computer science in the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which are used extensively by technologists to develop revolutionary navigational technologies, and by businesses to provide better services to customers, by police, and other government officials and non-government first-responders who prepare for and react to disasters, reduce crime, and provide useful public services.

Global competition increasingly requires the United States to make the necessary investments in science and engineering research and education. The NSF is an agency that is well-suited to receive such investments as it supports science broadly, encourages interdisciplinary interactions and collaborations between universities and industry. These investments will help ensure our country's ability to compete at the highest levels.

Thank you again, Mr. President, for recognizing how necessary federal support of science and engineering research and education is to our ability to be economically competitive and how important the NSF is to this cause. We look forward in joining you to convince Congress about the importance of investing in the NSF and the American future.

Sincerely,

