

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

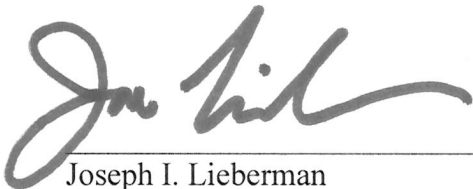
Thank you for the work you have done to invest in the National Science Foundation (NSF). A bold federal investment over the years in basic science research has been made at NSF thanks to your leadership on this subcommittee. As you know, last year the America COMPETES ACT became law with strong bipartisan support, which further demonstrates the strong bipartisan commitment to a federal investment basic research and science education. To continue that good work, we ask that you provide \$6.85 billion for the NSF. This is a 13% increase over the estimated FY 2008 funding level, and consistent with the Administration's FY 2009 budget request.

As you know, the NSF investments in research and education have continuously returned exceptional dividends to the American people. Now, globalization has amplified worldwide competition for scientific discovery, technological innovation, talent, and leadership making it imperative that the U.S. support the NSF adequately.

The NSF has proven to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars as the agency earns exemplary budgetary performance scores, and all grants are awarded through a peer-review process. The NSF is unique in that a small federal investment in research has the potential to yield immeasurable benefits to society.

Thank you for your consideration of this request which is critical to the advancement of research and education in support of American innovation.

Sincerely,



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Joseph I. Lieberman  
UNITED STATES SENATOR



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Christopher S. Bond  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2008


Dear Colleague:

Please join us in signing the attached letter to Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to provide \$6.85 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for fiscal year 2009.

As you know, last year the America COMPETES ACT became law with strong bipartisan support, which demonstrates the strong bipartisan commitment to a federal investment basic research and science education. To continue that good work, we are asking that the subcommittee provide \$6.85 billion for the NSF. This is a 13% increase over the estimated FY 2008 funding level, and consistent with the Administration's FY 2009 budget request.

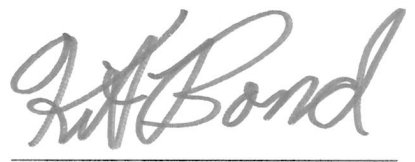
If you have any questions or would like to be added to the letter please contact Sherry Gillespie in Senator Lieberman's office at 228-3093, or Meagan Perry in Senator Bond's office at 224-5837. We would appreciate your response by Friday, March 7, 2008.

Sincerely,



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Joseph I. Lieberman  
UNITED STATES SENATOR



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Christopher S. Bond  
UNITED STATES SENATOR