

November 1, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of [Business for Federal Research Funding](#) (BFRF), a broad-based coalition of more than 80 chambers of commerce from across the country, we are writing to thank you for including critical investments for scientific and medical research in the FY 2019 “minibus” spending packages that were approved and signed into law last month. Specifically, we thank you for your strong bipartisan leadership in providing a \$2 billion increase to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a \$1.1 billion increase to science and technology funding at the Department of Defense, and an increase to the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

The Business for Federal Research Funding coalition formed in 2014 to heighten awareness of the critical impact that research has on our nation’s competitiveness and to advocate for sustained investments across various research agencies in the federal budget. As business leaders, we know that research and innovation are the lifeblood of our regional economies and businesses from all industries thrive with the investment of federal dollars in basic research. An electronic copy of BFRF’s policy brief, *The Business Case for Federal Research Funding*, is attached.

When Congress returns after the November midterm elections, we urge you to finalize the remaining FY 2019 appropriations bills and continue to prioritize research by providing robust funding to the remaining agencies that conduct basic research, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Providing predictable and stable funding to these agencies before the short-term Continuing Resolution runs out in December will help the United States continue to make progress on tackling some of the country’s most difficult health challenges and scientific needs and help maintain our reputation as a world leader in science, medicine and innovation.

Representing a strong cross-section of the nation’s business community, we thank you again for the investments in research in the FY 2019 spending packages. We look forward to working with you as you finalize the remaining spending bills.

Sincerely,

Business for Federal Research Funding

cc: Members of House and Senate Appropriations Committees

COALITION MEMBERS

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (AL)	St. Louis Regional Chamber (MO, IL)
Huntsville/Madison County Chamber (AL)	Ashville Area Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)	Cary Chamber of Commerce (NC)
San Diego Chamber of Commerce (CA)	Charlotte Chamber of Commerce (NC)
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce (CA)	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce (CA)	Fayetteville Regional Chamber (NC)
Silicon Valley Leadership Group (CA)	Greater Raleigh Chamber (NC)
Aurora Chamber of Commerce (CO)	Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Colorado Business Roundtable (CO)	Morrisville Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce (CO)	Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce (NE)
South Denver Metro Chamber (CO)	Midjersey Chamber of Commerce (NJ)
Boulder Chamber of Commerce (CO)	Princeton Regional Chamber (NJ)
Fort Collins Area Chamber (CO)	Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (NY)
The Bridgeport Regional Business Council (CT)	Capital Region Chamber (NY)
The Business Council of Fairfield County (CT)	Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce (FL)	Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (FL)	Columbus Chamber of Commerce (OH)
Athens Area Chamber of Commerce (GA)	Dayton Development Coalition (OH)
Georgia Chamber (GA)	Greater Cleveland Partnership (OH)
DeKalb Chamber of Commerce (GA)	Greater Oklahoma City Chamber (OK)
Metro Atlanta Chamber (GA)	Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce (OR) Portland
Greater Des Moines Partnership (IA)	Business Alliance (OR)
Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce (IA)	Springfield Chamber of Commerce (OR)
Ames Chamber of Commerce (IA)	Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County (PA)
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance (IA)	Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce (IL)	The Chamber of Commerce for
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce (IL)	Greater Philadelphia (PA)
Indy Chamber (IN)	CEO Council for Growth (PA, NJ, DE)
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce (KS)	Greater Providence Chamber (RI)
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (KS)	Austin Chamber of Commerce (TX)
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce (KS)	Lubbock Chamber of Commerce (TX)
Greater Lexington, KY Chamber of Commerce (KY)	Salt Lake Chamber (UT)
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce (MA)	Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce (VA) Fairfax
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce (MA)	County Chamber of Commerce (VA) Charlottesville
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce (MA)	Regional Chamber of Commerce (VA) Greater
New England Council (MA, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME)	Richmond Chamber (VA)
Maryland Chamber of Commerce (MD)	Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (VA)
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber (MI)	Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (WA)
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce (MN)	Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce (WI)
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (MO)	