



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is vital to America's research enterprise and ensuring that our nation remains a global leader in science and technology. The NSF is also essential to ensuring that our country has a highly trained, educated and diverse scientific and engineering workforce to compete globally.

As the largest recipient of NSF funding, the University of California (UC) plays a leading role in addressing scientific, technological and societal challenges while ensuring America's national security, global competitiveness and economic leadership. Strong funding for the NSF across all research disciplines is critical for UC scientists and graduate students to tackle our nation's great challenges and expand knowledge of our world and the universe. UC researchers are awarded more NSF funding than any other institution in the country, receiving approximately 7 to 8 percent of NSF's annual appropriations. In fiscal year (FY) 2019, UC successfully competed for \$512 million in NSF funding across more than 2,200 grant awards.

UC strongly supports Congress' focus and commitment to providing robust funding for NSF; specifically, UC supports the House Science, Space and Technology Committee's NSF for the Future Act and encourages the House of Representatives to advance this important legislation.

UC appreciates that the NSF for the Future Act aims to maintain the core mission of the Foundation, while also creating a new directorate to support use-inspired research and translation, which can greatly advance technological innovations in our country. The new Solutions Directorate would take on many issues with a strong interdisciplinary and goal-oriented approach.

In addition, UC applauds the bill's aim to focus on climate change and environmental sustainability, as these are some of the greatest scientific challenges facing the world. UC acknowledges that addressing these issues will require both rigorous research and training for the next generation of climate researchers and this bill provides investments in key areas necessary to ensure the nation leads in the development of innovative solutions for a cleaner and healthier planet.

Another important issue the NSF for the Future Act tackles is increasing diversity among researchers at all levels. UC strongly supports the bill's effort to encourage NSF to foster partnerships with emerging research institutions, including minority serving institutions (MSIs) and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and to focus on broadening participation of underrepresented people in the next generation STEM workforce.


UC strongly supports the NSF for the Future Act, which ensures the advancement of research knowledge with the potential to transform the future, as well as the development of a workforce that can address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

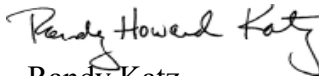
Recognizing that the Senate recently passed the United States Innovation and Competition Act, we hope the House and Senate can resolve differences between the two bills and ensure that problematic research security provisions included in the Senate bill are eliminated. These provisions undermine innovation and better position our competitors to outpace the U.S. in developing the next generation of technologies.

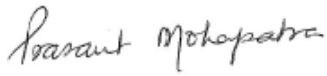
The University of California appreciates Congress' commitment to investing in scientific and technological research and we look forward to working you and your staff as this important legislation moves forward.

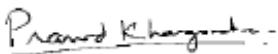
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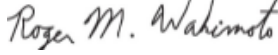
Sincerely,

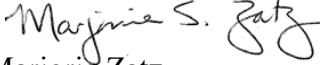

Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Vice President for Research & Innovation

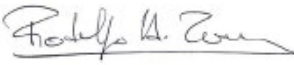

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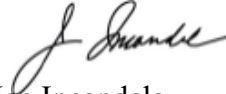

Sandra Brown
Vice Chancellor for Research, UC San Diego



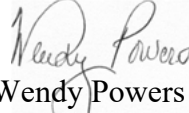
Daniel H. Lowenstein
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Wendy Powers
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cc: Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)
Congressman Ami Bera (CA-7)
Congressman Brad Sherman (CA-30)
Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-9)
Congressman Mike Garcia (CA-25)
Congresswoman Young Kim (CA-39)
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