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July 1, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

On behalf of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and our 120 member colleges and universities, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in developing and advancing the National Science Foundation for the Future Act. This important legislation recognizes the central role of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in helping to build our innovation-driven economy and ensure America's continuing global leadership in science. It is truly heartening to see H.R. 2225 win strong bipartisan support from a diverse group of lawmakers and stakeholders.

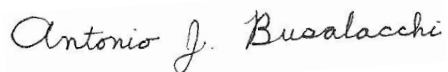
For more than 70 years, NSF has been the cornerstone of our nation's fundamental research, as well as of our STEM education system and scientific workforce. The vision of NSF detailed in H.R. 2225 recognizes this history and advances the Agency's role as an engine of our economy, and of innovation, ensuring its future will be as bright as its past. H.R. 2225 recognizes the robust funding NSF needs immediately and provides for sustained and predictable increases that are vital for strategic planning. This approach will increase educational opportunities for the next generation of scientists, enhance the skills of our diverse human capital, and foster future innovations. In today's increasingly competitive global environment, such investments are more vital than ever to sustain American prosperity and resilience.

UCAR strongly supports the bill's creation of the NSF Science and Engineering Solutions Directorate, which will produce actionable science and provide decision makers with recommended solutions to many of society's most pressing challenges. By complementing NSF's curiosity-driven directorates, the Science and Engineering Solutions Directorate will support use-inspired research to enable America's continued global leadership in science and technology.

As an organization dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion, UCAR deeply appreciates the bill's recognition of the need for greater diversity across NSF and the scientific community. The emphasis on actively recruiting candidates from a wider set of institutions across all regions of the country, and from populations that are underrepresented in STEM, is essential if we are to fully realize America's science potential. In addition, we believe that the support of the NSF INCLUDES initiative in H.R. 2225, as well as financial and mentoring support for many of those in graduate programs, will greatly aid with the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students. The bill's recognition of the importance of diversity is further enhanced by its support for tribal colleges and universities to build graduate programs. H.R. 2225 allows for the kind of capacity investments in highly trained and innovative faculty, and the infrastructure to train them, that are desperately needed to ensure that our investments in student programs are sustainable and set up for long-term success.

Thank you again for your continued leadership on the Science Committee, and for your work advancing this important bill that strategically strengthens NSF and enables our nation to maintain its vital edge in science and innovation.

Sincerely,



Antonio J. Busalacchi  
President, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research



Susan K. Avery  
Chair, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Board of Trustees