

Coalition for
National Security Research

November 10, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Members Durbin and Visclosky:

On behalf of the Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), a broad-based coalition of 74 members including industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional associations, we urge you to provide robust funding for the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) and Defense Basic Research programs as you allocate the additional funding made available under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

The Defense S&T program has historically given rise to new weapon systems, defensive capabilities, and technologies used to protect the warfighter and heal the wounded that have allowed the U.S. military to maintain technical superiority over all other nations. In addition, many innovative Defense S&T-supported military technologies have translated into non-military applications that have helped drive U.S. economic prosperity. Defense S&T investments have also helped create the highest quality and most innovative workforce in the world. However, we are concerned that a declining – or even flat – Defense S&T budget and decreased emphasis on basic research will jeopardize U.S. long-term military and economic superiority, while also causing the loss of the industries and the cutting-edge science and engineering workforce that are essential for a strong economy and national defense.

For these reasons, we strongly support the funding levels of \$12.8 billion for S&T and \$2.3 billion for 6.1 basic research as provided in the Senate's FY16 Defense Appropriations bill (S. 2130). These funding levels provide modest increases over the FY15 funding levels that are necessary to support the inventions and innovations that will lead to the development of the technologies of the future and train the next generation of scientists and engineers to the technical challenges and missions of national security. Now more than ever Defense S&T is needed to provide significant advances in capabilities and tactics used by our warfighters to provide them the overmatch to the ever-changing threats and challenges that they will encounter on the many battlefields the U.S. deploys upon.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Greenamoyer
Co-Chair
Coalition for National Security Research

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Richard Shelby

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Brian Schatz
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Steve Womack
The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable John Carter
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
The Honorable Tom Graves
The Honorable Betty McCollum
The Honorable Steve Israel
The Honorable Tim Ryan
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur

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American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Chemical Society
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Cornell University
Duke University
Energetics, Inc.
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida International University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
The Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
Northern Illinois University
Ohio State University
Optical Society of America
Oregon State University
Oregon Health and Sciences University
Pace University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
SRI International
The State University of New York
Texas A&M
University of Arizona
University of California System
University of California – Irvine
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University of Houston
University of Maryland at College Park
University of Michigan
University of Nebraska
University of North Carolina System
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Vanderbilt University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
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