[Date]

Your Street Address #1

Street Address #2

City, State, Zip Code

The Honorable [Full Name]

[Room #] [Name] Senate Office Building

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [Last Name],

I am writing to seek your support to fund the National Science Foundation’s budget for fiscal year 2012 at $7,767,000,000, the full level requested by NSF. Keeping NSF’s funding at this level will ensure the nation’s strength in science and engineering research and education. In particular, the proposed cuts by the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee decreases NSF’s funding in key areas threatening the vitality of the nation’s science and engineering enterprise. Maintaining funding provides opportunities for the nation’s scientists to continue fundamental research that drives new products like Google and the iPad, provides security to our nation through research in cyber security, and provides valuable resources to produce the next generation of scientists and engineers through its education programs for K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students.

As a physics educator, I am particularly concerned about the impact cuts will have on NSF’s programs that directly affect STEM education. Many of the premier programs at the American Association of Physics Teachers rely on funding from NSF. These programs include providing resources for engaged student learning to new physics faculty at both two and four year institutions of higher education across the U.S., resources for students, teachers, and faculty through the National Science Digital Library, and a number of conferences that bring physics educators together to disseminate best practices in training the next generation of scientists and engineers as well as citizens. [Insert your own sentence or two about the impact of cuts on you and your students.] As the National Academies report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” states, the future of U.S. innovation and competitiveness rests on these types of programs. Cuts to NSF will hurt the nation’s ability to innovate in the future and will weaken the U.S. competitively.

Please vote to keep NSF’s budget at $7,767,000,000. The nation’s future depends on it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

[Your Name]

[Your Credentials]