

**The Federal Investment in Geosciences Contributes to
the Nation's Economic Competitiveness, Public Safety, and National Security**

January 7, 2016

Honorable France A. Córdova
Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Córdova:

We would like to express our appreciation for your leadership and efforts in support of the Geosciences over the past year. We were pleased to see the \$120 million increase in Fiscal Year 2016 funding for NSF despite the many challenges the Foundation has faced. While we all would like to have seen NSF's topline funding growth match that of the Administration's request, we have hopefully laid a strong foundation for advancing NSF's research funding priorities in the 2017 budget and appropriations process. We were also very pleased to see the House language that would have reduced research funding to the Geosciences retracted in the final report. We recognize the personal effort you put towards addressing this outstanding issue and sincerely thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Many individuals from the organizations listed below were also very pleased and honored by your participation in the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco. Your keynote remarks acknowledging the importance of geoscience funding to NSF cross-directorate priorities were well received by the large and diverse Earth science community. We will continue to work with partners who use geoscience information in their jobs, industries and daily lives to help communicate its importance to lawmakers who have questioned its value.

Given the importance of geoscience research to policy decisions made across the Agency, and to the public and private sectors, we request that you take the opportunity during the development of the NSF's FY16 spending plan to fund the GEO directorate at a level that attempts to restore foregone revenue from prior years' budgets. The loss of these funds will be compounded in future years if they are not restored and will significantly impact the GEO Directorate's capacity to address outstanding research and infrastructure issues that have arisen in recent years. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with you early in the New Year and will be reaching out to GEO directorate leadership to facilitate this discussion.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in 2016 to secure additional congressional champions and funding support for NSF's nationally and globally important research priorities. We thank you again for your leadership and support of the diverse science community that relies on the National Science Foundation.

Sincerely,

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
American Geophysical Union
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego

**The Federal Investment in Geosciences Contributes to
the Nation's Economic Competitiveness, Public Safety, and National Security**

National Association of Marine Laboratories
Michigan Technological University
University of Georgia
SRI International
Michigan State University
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Brown University
South Dakota State University
University of New Hampshire
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
The University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hatfield Marine Science Center at Oregon State University
Global Environment and Technology Foundation
Rutgers University
Florida State University
Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Oregon State University
University of Oregon
Savannah State University
University of Oklahoma
Dauphin Island Sea Lab
The Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Rutgers University
University of Colorado Boulder
Ball State University
University of Wisconsin Madison
Council on Undergraduate Research - Geosciences Division
University of North Carolina Wilmington
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Oregon
University of Connecticut
The Weather Coalition
University of Washington
Valparaiso University
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Southern California
American Geosciences Institute
Baruch Institute, University of South Carolina
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University
University of California System
Soil Science Society of America
North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
University of Rhode Island
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University
APLU Board on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Climate
The University of Texas at Austin

cc: Dr. Richard Buckias, Deputy Director Designee
Dr. Roger Wakimoto, Assistant Director, Geosciences