

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, H-310
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
House Committee on Appropriations
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 04, 2017

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

We are writing to request that you include \$170 million for the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) when your subcommittee marks up the FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

For more than 60 years, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has provided academic research funding to colleges and universities around the nation that has been critical in supporting cutting edge research efforts in smaller academic communities. Investments in critical programs such as EPSCoR are essential to maintaining our competitive edge in scientific research and a global economy.

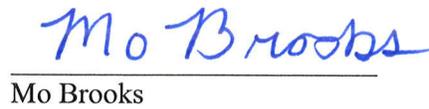
You may be aware that 25 states receive only 10% of all NSF funding. We believe that in order to ensure robust academic research across the country, geographic diversity in funding should be a priority. Each state, no matter how small, has unique talent and expertise to contribute to our country's research efforts – and every state should have the opportunity and means to compete for research funds. EPSCoR helps ensure that academic research institutions in 25 states develop a strong research infrastructure and participate fully in federally funded research activities. With this in mind, it is paramount that EPSCoR be properly funded to maintain diversity in the federal dollars being allocated to states and regions.

Once again, we respectfully request that \$170 million be allocated to the NSF EPSCoR program in FY 2017. This funding will enable NSF to continue a robust Research Infrastructure Improvement program, which is the building block for infrastructure improvement in each state, as well as invest in multi-disciplinary research proposals and support community-based activities. This small investment will ensure a balanced NSF approach and continue to build the capacity that states need to compete in a knowledge driven and technologically based society.

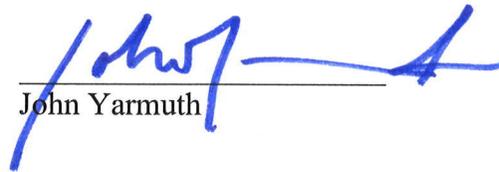
Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We will be grateful for your leadership in ensuring that funds necessary to encourage research infrastructure and innovation are appropriated.

Sincerely,


David N. Cicilline

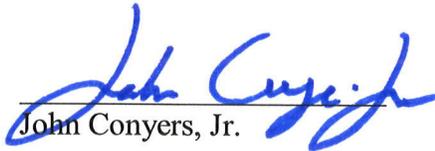

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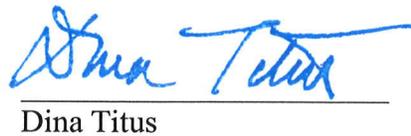

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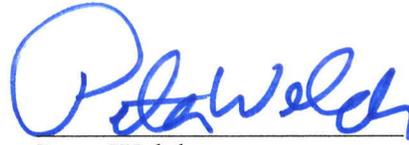

Terry Sewell

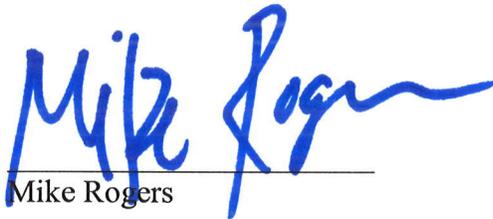

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

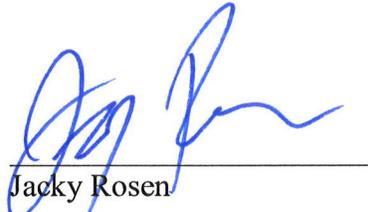

Don Young


Jennifer González-Colón


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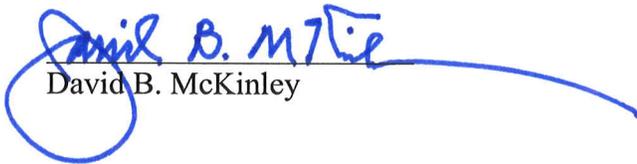

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