



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, scientific societies, and businesses – wants to thank Congress for its consistent support for fundamental scientific research and educational programs supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As the only federal agency charged with the promotion of scientific progress across all scientific and engineering disciplines, NSF is the cornerstone of America’s basic research enterprise.

We urge you to swiftly allow a vote on Dr. Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan’s nomination to become the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) following his recent unanimous approval by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. In this time of national crisis, it is imperative that NSF has strong, permanent leadership to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, develop solutions and understanding to strengthen our resilience, and ensure our national science and technology competitiveness.

Dr. Panchanathan has served as a member of the National Science Board, NSF’s advisory body, since 2014, providing him an in-depth understanding of the agency and its current goals. This, along with his service in various Chief Research Officer roles at Arizona State University since 2010, make him exceptionally qualified for the position.

Dr. Panchanathan’s nomination comes as the United States faces new and novel competition from countries around the globe and seeks to maintain its title as the innovation capital of the world. His confirmation will allow NSF to continue its long legacy of investing in essential basic research and supporting the growth of the American scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)



American Anthropological Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physiological Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Computing Research Association
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University



Council of Graduate Schools
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Eastman
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Eversole Associates
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Florida State University
Forge Policy Solutions
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
IEEE-USA
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)
Indiana University
Lehigh University
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
Linguistic Society of America
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Mineralogical Society of America
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Communication Association
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
New York University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Psychonomic Society
PsySiP: Psychology of Science in Policy
Purdue University
Research!America
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
SACNAS



SAGE Publishing
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
Soil Science Society of America
SPIE
St. Louis University
State University of New York System (SUNY)
Stony Brook University
The Ohio State University
The Optical Society
Tufts University
UNAVCO
University of California System
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Nebraska
University of Pennsylvania
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Verizon
Washington State University
West Virginia University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Yale University