

19th May 2014

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

The undersigned organizations write in support of H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015. The legislation re-authorizes civilian research programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The overall funding authorization remains at the same level as the FY 2015 enacted funding and complies with the funding limits set by the Budget Control Act.

The legislation reduces authorized funding levels for climate change, green energy deployment, and late-stage commercialization programs, and redirects this funding to long-term basic research in the core physical sciences. These welcome reductions should lead to fewer embarrassments, such as federal funding for climate change musicals, and also to less cronyism at the Department of Energy.

We also support the legislation's requirement that all NSF-funded research is in the national interest. Requiring every NSF grant award to be accompanied by a non-technical explanation of the project's scientific merits and how it serves the national interest will increase NSF's accountability to the American people by informing them how their tax dollars are being spent.

We urge every Member of Congress to vote in support of H.R. 1806, which makes useful reforms in programs that provide federal funding for scientific research.

Sincerely,

Myron Ebell
Competitive Enterprise Institute

Phil Kerpen
American Commitment

Craig Richardson
Energy and Environment Legal Institute

Tom Pyle
American Energy Alliance

George Landrith
Frontiers of Freedom

(Enquiries to: Myron Ebell at mebell@cei.org or 202-331-2256.)