

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We write to thank you for your continued support of funding for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, which spur innovation and are critical to our nation's economic competitiveness. In order to maintain U.S. scientific and economic leadership, our workforce and research community require the participation of the best and brightest in every state. To promote this endeavor, we write to express our strong support for robust funding of the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR) and urge you to provide the maximum funding possible for this important program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bill.


EPSCoR is targeted at states and jurisdictions that are historically underserved by federal research and development (R&D) funding, providing these states with opportunities to strengthen their research capabilities and to advance technological innovation. EPSCoR's support for science and engineering research is crucial to maintaining our nation's competitiveness and ensuring that the benefits of the knowledge economy extend throughout all regions of our nation. The investment in EPSCoR over the years has brought innumerable benefits to researchers, students, and communities around the nation. However, significant imbalances remain and will only increase in a high tech world driven by artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G networks, robotics, cybersecurity, autonomous systems, directed energy, hypersonic, microelectronics and related fields. We need to act now to overcome these disparities.

Today, NSF is still confronted by a geographical imbalance in its research funding. Today, 25 states and three jurisdictions account for about 10% percent of all NSF funding. These include Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Yet, these states are home to many talented scientists, engineers, and researchers.

Your continued support of EPSCoR will continue to bolster the ability of EPSCoR states to compete and provide benefit to all taxpayers by increasing national research capacity, training the skilled workforce of the future, and encouraging long-term economic growth throughout the nation. Increased appropriations can immediately be utilized to co-fund major centers and new initiatives, support additional researchers, and provide state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that robust STEM and research capabilities are available in every EPSCoR state.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



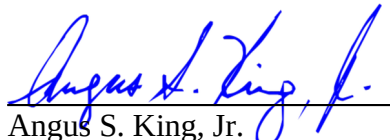
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United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



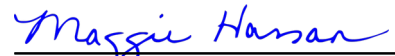
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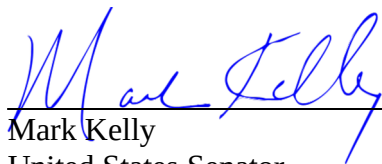
Sheldon Whitehouse
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Jacky Rosen
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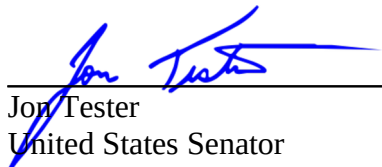
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United States Senator



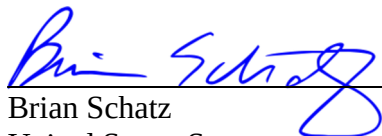
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