



January 9, 2007

Senator Robert C. Byrd
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-311
Washington, DC 20510-4801

Dear Senator Byrd,

As representatives of the broad spectrum of the Information Technology community, we urge you to include increased funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), at the levels approved by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee during the 109th Congress, when the extension of the continuing resolution for FY 2007 is debated.

With information and communications technologies transforming economies worldwide, today, more than ever, the United States must remain vigilant in sustaining and stimulating investments in a strong national research infrastructure for advancing discovery and innovation. Among America's greatest strengths is the ongoing role of the National Science Foundation's support for research and educational programs to maintain the nation's innovative leadership in science, which in turn supports our economic competitiveness.

Investments in basic research have enjoyed longstanding bipartisan support. The Democratic Innovation Agenda, announced last year, calls for doubling of the NSF budget over five years, while the Administration's FY 2007 budget called for a doubling over the next ten years. We need to commence that investment now.

Recent reports from the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and the Council on Competitiveness acknowledge and support the key role that the NSF plays in support of critical basic research. The incremental investment of \$439M for the NSF, as a part of limited adjustments to the continuing resolution, is a necessary action at this time of increased attention to the need to support innovation to maintain America's leadership role in research and development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Luker'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Mark Luker
Vice President, EDUCAUSE