



President

Laura H. Greene

*National High Magnetic
Field Laboratory and
Florida State University*

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*University of California –
Berkeley*

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*KITP
University of California –
Santa Barbara*

Past President

Homer A. Neal

University of Michigan

Chief Executive Officer

Kate P. Kirby

American Physical Society

October 30, 2017

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

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Schumer, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As president of the American Physical Society (APS), representing more than 54,000 scientists in universities, industries and national laboratories, I urge you to reach an agreement that raises the budgetary spending caps for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The caps are proving to be detrimental and are jeopardizing the U.S. research enterprise. Increasing the caps would enable more robust support for the federal science agencies – including the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) – without affecting other programs. These agencies are critical to maintaining U.S. leadership in scientific innovation, improving our economic competitiveness, training our next generation workforce, and ensuring our national security.

I commend both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for their leadership in largely rejecting the deep cuts to federal science agencies proposed in the President's FY 2018 budget request. While their current spending bills include different funding levels for particular agencies, the two chambers displayed clear agreement on the critical role the federal science agencies play in the U.S. scientific enterprise by declining the President's proposed cuts.

NSF, for example, supports nearly one quarter of all federally funded fundamental research conducted at U.S. colleges and universities. Its research and education programs help to advance our scientific knowledge and understanding and to build the STEM workforce. NIST – an often overlooked federal science agency – promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology. NIST has a tradition of partnering with businesses, universities and other government agencies to support our innovation ecosystem. Additionally, DOE Office of Science is the nation's primary supporter of basic physical sciences research, providing funding to researchers across scientific fields in pursuit of both fundamental discoveries and advances to our

energy security and national security. It also plays an integral role in U.S. leadership in other fields, including advanced materials, high energy physics and plasma physics.

Innovation and economic growth are hindered by stalled investments in research and development. While APS recognizes the need for thoughtful and measured federal spending, robust funding for science is an essential investment for maintaining our nation's innovative edge in national security, energy security, scientific leadership and economic prosperity. I urge your strong support for raising the FY 2018 budget caps, which would enable Congress to increase research investments – spurring innovation, creating new jobs and growing our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura H. Greene".

Laura H. Greene

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
The Honorable John Culberson
The Honorable José Serrano
The Honorable Mike Simpson
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur