

United States Senate

August 6, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair, Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Chair Sanders,

As you develop the upcoming budget resolution and reconciliation bill, we urge you to include at least \$40.25 billion for critical science infrastructure and exploration investments at the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The foundational basic research, applied science, and workforce development funded by NSF, NASA, and NIST are essential to our global competitiveness, scientific leadership, and generating good, clean, American jobs for the future. However, these important science agencies are often overlooked when it comes to major investments, both through the traditional appropriations process as well as through recent supplemental appropriations bills.

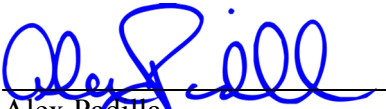
As you know, the Senate recently passed the *United States Innovation and Competition Act* with a large bipartisan majority in order to protect America's future in areas such as quantum, energy, autonomous vehicles, biotechnology, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and enabling the basic research and workforce development needed to fuel technology development and entrepreneurial activity. We believe the budget reconciliation bill represents a prime opportunity to begin implementing this bold vision by funding the necessary research and development infrastructure.

Addressing both the aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance that supports NSF and NASA as well as fully funding new infrastructure projects and exploration missions upfront through the upcoming budget reconciliation bill would allow these agencies to more efficiently focus their resources and attention on the cutting-edge science and human investments that are necessary to ensure the U.S. remains the global leader in scientific breakthroughs and technology development.

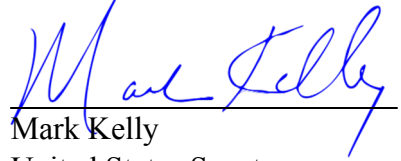
Given all of the time and energy the Senate has recently spent discussing U.S. global competitiveness and America's scientific leadership, we urge you to take the opportunity presented by budget reconciliation to make a generational investment in America's scientific infrastructure. We look forward to working closely with you on this effort.

United States Senate

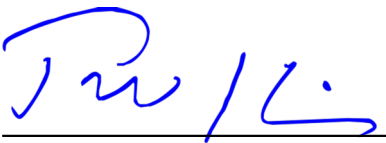
Sincerely,



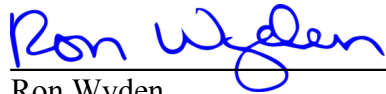
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



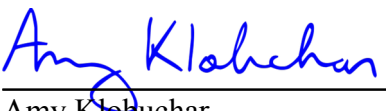
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



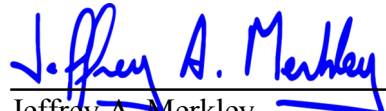
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



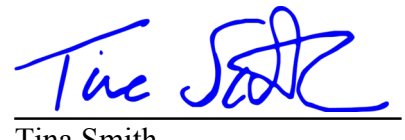
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator