



May 25, 2017

Biophysical Society Statement on the President Trump's FY 2018 Budget Request

The Biophysical Society is deeply alarmed about the cuts to science proposed in President Donald J. Trump's 2018 budget request. The cuts are so deep and targeted that they threaten not only American competitiveness and prosperity, but even our national security in the longer term. The dangerous reductions include a \$6.6 billion (20%) cut for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a \$820 million (11%) cut for the National Science Foundation (NSF), a \$919 million (17%) cut for the Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE SC) and the elimination of the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), which has supported high-risk, high-reward projects in renewable energy and efficiency with \$1.5 billion since 2009.

"One of the key roles of government in the modern world is funding basic scientific research, which then leads to myriad advances such as technologies that fuel economic growth and cures for diseases. It is very short-sighted to try to reduce government research funding in the U.S., as one of the assured consequences is that U.S. competitiveness in the world will rapidly decline," stated Edward Egelman, the Society's Public Affairs chair.

Society President Lukas Tamm added, "Government support for fundamental scientific research has made the U.S. a world leader in innovation and discovery, which translated into billions of dollars in economic, social, and health benefits for many decades. President Trump's anemic budget for scientific research threatens this competitiveness in many areas. We call on Congress to carry out its responsibility to restore the budgets of government funded research to safeguard U.S. leadership and prosperity into the future."

Instead of contributing to the weakening of our nation and jeopardizing its leadership role in scientific research that has been a major engine for the country's economy and security, Congress must continue the bipartisan and bicameral support for research it has shown under all administrations in the past. The Biophysical Society urges all of our representatives in Congress to negotiate a bipartisan budget deal that invests in research for the good of the economy and the health and security of the nation. Specifically, we ask Congress to provide in the 2018 Budget a \$2 billion increase for NIH, a \$356 million increase for the DOE Office of Science, and a \$528 million increase for the NSF, to achieve funding levels that are necessary to maintain U.S. economic, technological and scientific leadership.

The Biophysical Society looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to ensure that scientific research remains a national priority in FY 2018.

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