TO: UCAR Community  
FROM: Rick Anthes  
RE: Signatures Needed on "Dear Colleague" Letter Supporting Increase to NSF's FY 2006 Budget

Friends -- As you are well aware, the FY06 budget request for science and science education is disturbing. Research budgets for NSF, NOAA, DOE, and NASA science are all down from FY05, and some accounts are below the FY04 level. Because of this alarming trend, you may receive more action alerts from me during this budget process than in recent years. I will send only those that I think are absolutely necessary -- please take the time to respond. We have been told time and again by our congressional representatives that input from the scientific community does make a difference -- and we need to make a difference this year!

This alert addresses getting representatives to sign on to a "dear colleague" letter supporting NSF. Congressmen Vern Ehlers (MI) and Rush Holt (NJ) are asking the science community for assistance in requesting that their colleagues sign a letter to Chairman of the new Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee, Frank Wolf (VA) and Ranking Member Alan Mollohan (WV) regarding an increase for NSF. I am asking you to write your Member and urge him/her to sign this letter (letter attached and available at [http://www.ucar.edu/oga/pdf/Ehlers_Holt_FY06_NSF.pdf](http://www.ucar.edu/oga/pdf/Ehlers_Holt_FY06_NSF.pdf)). A sample letter that you may FAX to your Member is below. The deadline for them to sign on to the Ehlers/Holt letter is April 22 -- so please act quickly. Contact Laura Curtis (lcurtis@ucar.edu) for the fax number. You can also find your representative's contact information by going to the House website ([www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)) and entering your zip code. This will take you to your representative's home page.

Thanks very much in advance for your response. -- Rick Anthes

Dear Representative XXXXX:

As a researcher and educator in (DISTRICT/STATE), I am writing to ask that you add your signature to a letter to Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman, Frank Wolf, and Ranking Minority Member, Alan Mollohan, to support increased funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for FY 2006. Congressmen Vernon Ehlers and Rush Holt are organizing this very important activity, and I urge you to support them.

In the FY06 budget request, NSF's Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account appears to receive a $113.0 million increase. However, much of this increase is proposed to cover Coast Guard icebreaker costs of between $48 million and $75 million. R&RA funds much of this country's basic scientific research -- research that provides the basis for the country's economic vitality and national security. The NSF proposal success rate has slipped in recent years from one-in-three to less than one-in-four – the lowest funding ratio in 15 years. NSF requests-for-proposals are so oversubscribed that the NSF director, Dr. Arden Bement, has been forced to create a plan to deter applicants. As a
scientist and a U.S. citizen, I am very alarmed by this. I urge you to sign the Ehlers/Holt letter, and ask that you support the highest level of funding possible for the National Science Foundation.

To sign the letter, please contact Julia Warner in Rep. Ehlers' office (53831) or Valerie Thomasi in Mr. Holt's office (55801). The deadline to sign is April 22.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,