

Testimony for Fiscal Year 2014
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC
Submitted by
Representative Scott Peters
March 21, 2013

Chairman Wolf, Ranking Member Fattah, and Members of the Subcommittee:

As we work on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, I urge you to fully support funding for our nation's science and technology initiatives. These accounts have an extremely high rate of return and do more than anything to keep the United States innovative and prosperous. It is science, technology, and our military that are main drivers of San Diego's economy. In FY 2012, San Diego firms received more than \$130 million from the National Science Foundation. It's these critical investments that have helped San Diego earn the title of the second-largest life sciences cluster in the United States.

Thousands of American companies, of all sizes, are the product of federally funded research. Recently, 100 companies were highlighted by The Science Coalition as getting their start from federal funding. Altogether, these companies employ well over 100,000 people and have annual revenues approaching \$100 billion. In the 1980s, Qualcomm received federal funding to conduct research, enabling the fledgling company to attract capital and design and manufacture semiconductors for mobile phones among other products. Today, Qualcomm employs approximately 12,000 San Diegans and invests about \$4 billion of its own money into research and development.

When we are seeing global competition for our talent, we must keep investing in scientific research and development so that the next Qualcomm or Google can start and grow in the U.S. We cannot afford to weaken our global competitiveness or hinder our ability to retain scientists whose research could lead to the next big science or tech firm.

I understand that the budgetary landscape in which we must operate with regard to FY14 and beyond is challenging and requires hard choices. That said, I wanted to reiterate my full support for the budget accounts listed below, which are critical to the nation's economic health and well-being. As you are well aware, California benefits disproportionately from the federal investment in research and development, and I am proud of the fact that San Diegan research institutions and tech firms are highly successful competitors for merit-based research funding, from all available sources.

I respectfully request that we can continue to invest in the following accounts:

National Science Foundation (NSF), Research and Related Activities, \$5,983,280,000

I strongly support funding the NSF at a level at least the President's FY13 request of \$5.98328 billion for NSF's Research and Related Activities. This is \$40.587 million above the FY13 House Appropriations recommendation. NSF sponsors the work of educators, researchers, and students who are solving important scientific and technical challenges, building future economic growth with technological breakthroughs, devising better ways to teach science and math, and pushing back the frontiers of fundamental science through curiosity-driven research. NSF-funded research fuels San Diego's economy by supporting breakthroughs in biomedicine, physics, chemistry, engineering, economics and other social sciences, information technology, telecommunications and nanotechnology. Training in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is critical to maintaining U.S. competitiveness, especially in industries such as information technology, aeronautics, advanced energy systems, and biotechnology

Department of Commerce (DOC), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Scientific and Technical Research and Services, \$648,000,000

NIST's Scientific and Technical Research and Services is instrumental in accelerating tech transfer, and I support the President's FY13 request of \$648 million. This amount is \$26.827 million above the House Appropriations FY13 recommendation.

DOC, NIST, Industrial Technology Services, \$149,000,000

Industrial Technology Services (ITS) includes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a federal-state-industry program that offers U.S. manufacturers access to technologies, resources and industry experts. In their work with NIST, UC campuses promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness through measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. Therefore, ITS should be at least levelly funded in FY14 at \$149 million.

DOC, NOAA, Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment, Integrated Ocean Observing System, \$31,468,000

UCSD is the home to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a major participant in the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). I am very supportive of the FY13 House Appropriations recommendation of \$31.458 million, which is \$2.08 million above the FY12 amount. The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System Act was enacted in 2009 to address the need for enhanced ocean observing and forecasting capabilities and timely distribution of information on our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. A stable network of regional systems provides a stakeholder-driven IOOS that addresses the specific needs of coastal and ocean users, including maritime commerce, fisheries, aquaculture, offshore energy, public health and resource managers, coastal communities, and the general public.

DOC, NOAA, Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information Program within NOAA Operations, Research, Facilities, \$146,330,000

California, and especially San Diego, relies on the climate, weather, and water forecasts developed under the Sustained Observations and Regional Information Program to produce seasonal and annual management plans for water, agriculture, energy, fisheries and other businesses. This research program took a 20 percent reduction in FY 2012 (enacted at \$120

million) that will significantly impair the effectiveness of scientific observations, monitoring and modeling that help states manage their infrastructure and natural resources, and to reduce environmental risk and future federal and state costs from weather events, fire, floods and other natural disasters. The FY13 House Appropriations Committee recommended maintaining FY12 funding, and I support the President's FY13 request of \$146.33 million.

DOC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Estuarine Research Reserve System, \$24,000,000

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) comprises of 28 protected estuaries including the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve in San Diego. Tijuana River NERR land protection work ensures that 2,447 acres of coastal property worth more than \$281.405 million is protected. NERRS supports effective coastal resource management, and effective and healthy management of estuaries minimizes disaster costs. In the wake of extreme weather events such as Hurricane Sandy, we should further invest in natural forms of infrastructure to make our nation more resilient. At \$24 million, my FY14 request is a modest investment in our nation's most productive habitats and populated communities. This is also NERRS' FY14 request, and the request is \$4 million more than the FY13 House Appropriations recommendation.

DOC, NOAA, Marine Sanctuary Program, \$41,932,000

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Program is a center of economic activity and is an integral part of local coastal communities. It is located less than 150 miles from more than 17 million people in southern California. Commercial fishing and recreation-tourism alone generated an estimated \$207 million in seven counties during 2002, supporting 3,300 jobs. I support maintaining at least level funding and am supportive of the FY13 House Appropriations recommendation of \$41.932 million.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), NASA Space Grant, \$45,500,000

The Space Grant Program, which funds a national network of universities and colleges, is instrumental to attracting STEM students to pursue studies related to space exploration. The California Space Grant Consortium is headquartered at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and involves participation from nine of the ten University of California (UC) campuses, ten California State University campuses, several other universities in the state, plus three NASA centers – 28 affiliates in all. Space Grant institutions support NASA's aeronautics and space missions by giving students practical hands-on training in aerospace and related fields. The University of California provides matching funds for Space Grant award recipients, who are key to the program's K-12 and community college outreach throughout the state. In FY11, the Space Grant Program was funded at \$45.5 million, while in FY13 it was funded at \$24 million, a deep cut for this program.

NASA, Science Mission Directorate, \$5,095,000,000

I support at least the FY13 House Appropriations recommended funding (\$5.095 billion) for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, which promotes discoveries that expand our knowledge of the Earth, our solar system, and the universe.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our investments in science and technology support more than just jobs; they maintain our scientific edge, and we will reap the many benefits in the years to come. I will be pleased to answer any questions you or the Members may have.