The Honorable Christopher Bond  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

June 3, 2002

Dear Senator Bond:

On behalf of EDUCAUSE, I am pleased to write in support of providing a fifteen percent increase for the FY2003 National Science Foundation (NSF) budget. We are at a critical juncture wherein civilian, non-biomedical research funding is in need of an infusion of federal dollars to achieve the stated goal of doubling science and technology spending and to maintain the level of research that has supported our nation's economy and security.

EDUCAUSE is a non-profit organization comprised of approximately 1,800 colleges, universities and corporations. Individual members include college and university chief information technology officers and faculty, all seeking to transform higher education via the intelligent use of information technologies. Our members are involved in cutting-edge research, education and training of the next generation workforce, enabling the technology transfer that supports the nation's economy.

A fifteen percent budget increase for NSF will be applied to core programs as well as other activities like the Information Technology Research program, which focuses on technology disciplinary applications including software and network research, and the development of high-end technologies. NSF is the key agency in these research areas and it is of critical national importance that these research activities are maintained and expanded. In particular, increased demands for cybersecurity research and the training of American cybersecurity professionals to protect our networks in the war against terrorism will require a sustained commitment from the federal government.

We urge you and your colleagues to support all areas of research and technology and provide for additional support for NSF for FY2003.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Hawkins  
President  
EDUCAUSE