

May 5, 2025

Michael Kratsios  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Director Kratsios,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 160,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to express our concern over the decision to cut funding and personnel at the National Science Foundation (NSF). While the federal budget-setting process always presents critical choices among competing national priorities, NSF is charged with the critical responsibility to support research and education in science and engineering. The U.S. research enterprise has been tremendously successful over the decades, due in no small part to research and talent developed through NSF grants and is vital to ensure America remains a global economic leader.

Founded in 1852, ASCE is the country's oldest civil engineering organization. Representing civil engineers from private practice, government, industry, and academia, it is ASCE's objective to advance the science and profession of engineering to enhance the welfare of humanity. ASCE and NSF share common important interests and objectives. Broadly speaking, both promote progress in engineering and recognize the importance of engineering research and education for advancing national prosperity, welfare, and quality of life. Maintaining strong and steadily increasing support for research and education in civil engineering is critical to train an innovative and creative workforce capable of serving the increasingly complex needs of society.

For decades, national investment in NSF research and education programs has produced knowledge and trained scientists and engineers that are indispensable to our future economic vitality and national security. Therefore, it is critical to maintain steady and sustained investments in science to close the innovation deficit, that widening gap between the actual level of federal support for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader.

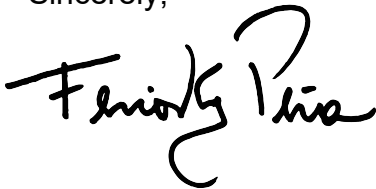
Furthermore, the U.S. is under unprecedented challenge from foreign nations, which have significantly increased their investments in research and development (R&D)

relative to the U.S. Therefore, cuts to NSF will not only have a devastating impact on future science, engineering, and the technological workforce, but will seriously threaten America's position as the world's innovation leader. NSF grants have provided the funding needed to educate and train the next generation of innovators, large scale cuts will slow that pipeline and have an enormous negative impact on future innovations and the nation's economic vitality.

Finally, a strong Engineering Directorate within NSF with healthy programs that support civil engineering research and education is important in view of the significant amount that the nation needs to invest in preserving, maintaining, protecting, and rebuilding its infrastructure and developing resilient and sustainable communities. Civil engineering, one of the oldest engineering disciplines, constantly stimulates new research areas to address ever evolving societal, environmental, and economic issues. Research in civil engineering is interdisciplinary, transformative and at the forefront of basic engineering research which continues to evolve to directly confront the ever-changing challenges of national economy, health, and safety.

NSF support for research is necessary for the continued economic prosperity of the nation. Cutting funding to these efforts will ultimately cost the American public in terms of economic growth and national security. Thank you for your consideration of our view, if we can be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Hight, ASCE Senior Manager for Government Relations at [mhight@asce.org](mailto:mhight@asce.org) or 202-789-7843.

Sincerely,



Feniosky Peña-Mora, Sc.D., P.E., NAS, CCM, F.CIOB, NAC, Dist.M.ASCE  
President  
American Society of Civil Engineers



Thomas W. Smith III, CAE, ENV SP, NAC, F.ASCE  
Executive Director  
American Society of Civil Engineers

Cc: Senator Ted Cruz  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Representative Brian Babin  
Representative Zoe Lofgren