

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Haley Stevens
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Research and Technology
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Waltz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Research and Technology
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Endorsement of the NSF for the Future Act (H.R. 2225)

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, Chairwoman Stevens, and Ranking Member Waltz:

I am writing on behalf of the American Institute of Biological Sciences to endorse the bipartisan legislation, *the National Science Foundation for the Future Act* (H.R. 2225), which proposes vital investments in our nation's scientific enterprise. We appreciate the bipartisan leadership and strong commitment to scientific research demonstrated in this bill.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) is a non-profit scientific society dedicated to promoting informed decision-making that advances biological research and education for the benefit of science and society. AIBS works to ensure that the public, legislators, funders, and the community of biologists have access to information that can guide informed decision-making. Our more than 110 organizational members collectively represent more than 100,000 scientists, science educators, and students.

AIBS deeply appreciates the collaborative and consultative process utilized by the Committee in developing this measure. We thank you for your thoughtful approach in soliciting and incorporating input and feedback from the scientific community and other stakeholders.

NSF is the only federal agency that funds basic research in all non-medical fields of science and engineering. NSF is the primary federal funding source for biological research at our nation's universities and colleges, providing 67 percent of extramural federal support for non-medical, fundamental biological and environmental research at academic institutions. NSF supports research and workforce development programs to train the next generation of scientists. These programs drive future economic growth and enhance our nation's security and global competitiveness. NSF is also an important supporter of biological research infrastructure, such as field stations, natural history museums, and living stock collections. These place-based research centers enable studies that take place over long periods of time and variable spatial scales. Research supported by NSF is critical for our efforts to address grand challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, biodiversity loss, and sustainable agriculture. economic growth, or national security.

AIBS is dedicated to increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the biological sciences and supports the bill's provisions for broadening access to research opportunities for underrepresented groups. We also applaud the increased financial support proposed for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which is an important program for recruiting and retaining underrepresented students.

AIBS supports the creation of a Directorate for Science and Engineering Solutions (SES) to fund use-inspired and translational research that complements the basic research supported by NSF's existing directorates. Increasing investments in translational research will bolster U.S. global leadership and competitiveness in innovation.

We also appreciate the attention focused on the importance of sustained support for biological research collections in H.R. 2225. Recent reports from the [National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine](#) and the [Biodiversity Collections Network](#) have highlighted the value of mobilizing biodiversity collections and data in spurring new scientific discoveries that grow our economy, improve our public health and wellbeing, and increase our national security. Both reports articulate a common vision of the future of biological collections and define a need to broaden and deepen the collections and associated data to realize the potential for biodiversity collections to inform 21st century science. This endeavor requires robust investments in our nation's scientific collections, whether they are owned by a federal or state agency or are part of an educational institution or free-standing natural history museum or another research center. The investments



950 Herndon Parkway
Suite 450
Herndon, VA 20170
United States of America

proposed in H.R. 2225 are critical for the efforts to mobilize biodiversity specimens and data in spurring new scientific discoveries.

We thank you for your leadership on this bipartisan effort to make much needed investments in our nation's scientific enterprise and to position the U.S. to lead on innovation and discovery. If you have any questions or require further information in order to advance this bill, please do not hesitate to contact AIBS Director of Public Policy Jyotsna Pandey (jpandey@aibs.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Glisson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent than the last name "Glisson".

Scott Glisson
Chief Executive Officer