

TO SEND ON April 26, 2011

The Honorable Subra Suresh
Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd
Arlington, VA 22230

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Director Suresh and Director Lew:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we write to express our appreciation for your past support of climate change education and to urge you to continue funding NSF's Climate Change Education Partnership (CCEP) program at the fiscal year 2010 level of \$10 million in your fiscal year 2011 spending plan to Congress. As this program is only one of two federal grant-making programs for climate change education and the modest funding for both is at risk for fiscal year 2011, we are particularly concerned that this program be continued.

We understand that you must make very difficult choices as a result of the fiscal year 2011 Continuing Resolution passed by Congress. Yet in times of economic crisis, it has been well proven that investing in education and innovation - in human capital - is without a doubt the best investment that can be made for long-term, across-the-board economic growth. As is increasingly recognized by business leaders, climate change education provides critical knowledge for the 21st Century clean energy economy by equipping students with the skills to understand complex environmental issues, thus enabling them to both make better informed decisions as citizens and to help find solutions for the challenges facing our nation.

However, while public awareness and concern for climate change continues to rise, the vast majority of the public remains demonstrably illiterate about how climate change works, how it impacts their lives, and how their decisions and actions contribute to it. Climate change education is a newly emerging as a field, with few materials, curricula, models, standards, or professional development opportunities to fill the void. Furthermore, climate change education is inherently interdisciplinary, and as a result, it often falls through the cracks for those that fund and teach traditional science education.

This is one of very few federal education programs which advance the President's clean energy agenda. We believe that the program is innovative, well run, and is producing results. The CCEP plays a critical, truly educational role in NSF's Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability program and will be critical to the success of this important initiative.

We urge NSF and OMB to continue funding the CCEP program at \$10 million in fiscal year 2011. Should you have any questions about this letter, please have your staff contact Danielle Moodie-Mills of the National Wildlife Federation at (202) 797-6634 or James Elder of the Campaign for Environmental Literacy at (978) 526-7768. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

National and Regional Organizations:

Associations of Zoos and Aquariums
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Earth Day Network
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Sierra Club

State and Local Organizations:

cc: Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources