**Sample Letter to VPRs on Supporting Appropriations for the National Science Foundation**

**[Date]**

**[Address]**

**Dear [Name],**

As you know, Congress passed, and President Biden signed, the CHIPS and Science Act into law in August 2022. That legislation authorizes major increases in funding for the National Science Foundation and other agencies.

Embedded in that legislation is language which AUTM helped include that authorizes [National Science Foundation](https://www.nsf.gov/) (NSF) to begin providing, for the first time, direct financial support to tech transfer operations like ours.

Those provisions will allow NSF to provide grants of up to $1 million per year for three years to institutions or regional collaborations for all sorts of tech transfer support, including:

* Hiring additional personnel,
* covering patenting costs,
* training for tech transfer personnel to increase their effectiveness, and
* providing support for tech transfer investments in order to build capacity.

The legislation also could:

* Provide start-ups and small business concerns within the region with access to facilities, scientific infrastructure, personnel, and other assets as required for technology maturation,
* support entrepreneurial training for start-up and small business personnel, and
* provide engineering and entrepreneurial experiences and hands-on training for students enrolled in participating institutions of higher education.

While these new programs are authorized, they will be implemented only if sufficient funding is appropriated for them to NSF. In its work to finalize appropriations for FY ’23, Congress approved about $1 billion in new funding for NSF, hopefully some of which can be targeted toward these tech transfer programs.

As our university lobbies Congress for increases in NSF appropriations for FY ’23 and beyond, we should include references to these potential positive impacts for tech transfer as another reason for our congressional delegation to support the highest funding levels possible for NSF. The [Association of American Universities](https://www.aau.edu/) (AAU) and the [Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities](https://www.aplu.org/) (APLU) already urge increases in NSF funding each year on a broad scale.

Please urge our federal relations team to mention these provisions in their advocacy in Washington. We are happy to provide more specific details about how these grants could benefit our state and region.

Sincerely,

[Name]