

# THE POLICY SCIENCES CENTER, INC.

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MYRES S. McDOUGAL  
Chairman (1906-1998)

W MICHAEL REISMAN  
Vice Chairman

ANDREW R. WILLARD  
President

Please Reply to: DR. LLOYD ETHEREDGE  
7106 Bells Mill Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
Tel: (301) 365-5241  
Fax: (301) 657-4214  
Internet: [lloyd.etheredge@yale.edu](mailto:lloyd.etheredge@yale.edu)  
**March 24, 2007**

Dr. Steven Beering, Chair - National Science Board  
Purdue University  
Office of the President  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Dear Dr. Beering:

Last summer, during a public comment period for NSF's draft Five Year Plan (2006-2011), I wrote to Dr. Arden Bement and Dr. Kathie Olsen with recommendations for a range of new investments in the social sciences. These new investments will strength NSF programs and help to solve some of the most challenging problems that we face.

I am concerned that these ideas may have suffered an untoward fate.

Dr. Bement and Dr. Olsen may have decided to continue their restriction of the social sciences in 2006-2011, even after the November 2006 elections.<sup>1</sup> I am not aware of any evidence on the public record that they told the National Science Board or Congress about their decision.

### A Simple Step to Achieve Rapid Progress

If the National Science Board (or Congress) wants to achieve rapid scientific progress along any of these lines, the simple solution is to ask Dr. Bement to convene an open, high-level process to design research roadmaps. The Director of NIH uses this "roadmap" method and achieves good results.

### Overview

The enclosed selections outline bold ideas for scientific progress concerning three urgent national challenges:

- Weakening economic models and data systems.

- Politics in a changing and (for America, in some respects) more dangerous world.
- The impasse of ideological ideas.

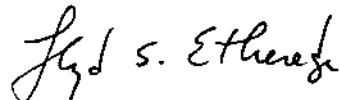
There also are four new opportunities for shared investments and data systems to benefit all of the social sciences. These take advantage of changes in the world, especially new communication technology and new methods in neuroscience:

- Science-citizen partnerships
- Computer-assisted methods to analyze communications
- Routine cross-cultural research
- Brain-Mind connections & fresh ideas about social and economic problems

Our Center was founded by Harold Lasswell and his associates in 1948 to develop and use the social sciences to improve public policy and contribute to human welfare. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the National Science Board to develop any of these roadmaps and renew national progress.

I have written to NSF about several of these opportunities earlier (e.g., for the work of the Infrastructure Task Force in 2003). Earlier correspondence and background material are online at [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net). Please call me at (301)-365-5241 if further discussion would be useful.

Sincerely,



(Dr.) Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director  
Government Learning Project

cc: National Science Board

1. They also ignored the two winners of the Nobel Prize in economics who supported my concerns and made similar fundamental criticisms in public later in 2006 and early 2007 (included at Tab 2).

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President [Request for Feedback, Transparency and Accountability]

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July 17, 2006

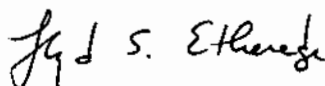
Dr. Arden L. Bement Jr., Director  
Dr. Kathie L. Olsen, Deputy Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Bement and Dr. Olsen:

I am writing to request transparency concerning how the recommendations that I have submitted during the comment period will be evaluated. By whom? By what process between now and approval of the final version? I would especially be grateful to know what additional argument, or evidence, or support from colleagues or professional associations, or paperwork would make a persuasive case for each of the ideas, if they are not yet persuasive.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



(Dr.) Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director  
Government Learning Project