NSF-funded research in atmospheric chemistry identified ozone depletion over the Antarctic, or the "ozone hole" as it has come to be known. In 1986, NSF researchers established chlorofluorocarbons as the probable cause of the Antarctic ozone hole. Since CFCs are used in many commercial applications, this discovery has driven a search for benign substitutes and also led to regulation of CFC emissions.

When most people think of the Internet they mean the World Wide Web and the Web Browsers, like Netscape, that allow them to find the information they seek. The browser made the World Wide Web. The first browser of note was Mosaic, and a student working at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications as part of federal R&D funds, but provides it. This is one of NSF's four original Supercomputing Centers.

In industry, the acronym CAD/CAM brings to mind the best in design and manufacturing techniques. NSF-funded research on solid modeling led to the widespread use of Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing. The keys to success were advances in the underlying mathematics and in linking the academic and industrial leaders in the field.

NSF's contributions are also manifest through the accomplishments of scientists and engineers, who were trained under NSF awards. It is well known that the great majority of the seminal work in developing such technologies as cell phones, fiber optics, and computer assisted design was performed by private industry—at labs like Corning, AT&T, and Motorola. A recent NSF sponsored study has shown that many scientists and engineers, who went to graduate school on NSF fellowships and research assistantships, often played important roles in the development of these and other technologies. In a number of cases, they became the entrepreneurs who created new firms and markets. To use the words of the authors of the study—"NSF emerges consistently as a major—often the major, source of support for education and training of the Ph.D. scientists and engineers who went on to make major contributions."

The resources NSF provides for support of research and education are relatively small, but the impact is great. The agency expends only 3.8% of federal R&D funds, but provides support large scientific instruments at colleges and universities. NSF's efforts in this area.

The NSF authorization bill I am introducing takes the position that it is necessary to increase participation in science and engineering declined by about 1%. Inadequacies in the size of NSF's budget are evident from the fact that the agency currently funds less than a third of the research applications it receives and about half of those judged to be of high quality. Even when an applicant receives a NSF award, it is usually suboptimal and perhaps half the amount of a NIH award. The current situation leaves researchers in NSF-funded fields scrambling for funds and spending too much of their time chasing limited funds rather than in the laboratory or mentoring students.

The NSF authorization bill I am introducing will provide increases of 15% per year for fiscal years 2002 through 2004. The bill will result in a NSF budget of $7.7 billion by the final year. The increases provided will allow NSF to increase average grant size and duration; support large scientific instruments at colleges and universities. Finally, the increases will support expansion of NSF's science education programs. Of particular importance will be increased efforts to improve the skills and content knowledge of K-12 classroom teachers and to increase participation in science and engineering by traditionally underrepresented groups. The increases will also expand education research programs, including quantifying the most effective uses of educational technology and strengthening efforts to assess education programs to determine and disseminate information about what methods and approaches are most effective in improving student performance in science and math.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a group of eighty scientific, engineering, and professional societies, universities, and corporations has called for providing no less than $5.1 billion, a 15% increase, for the NSF in FY 2002 as the next step in doubling the NSF budget. CNSF has stated that:

"Our national knowledge base in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering is increasingly important to broad economic and social interests. Doubling the NSF budget by 2006 will fund the crucial investments that the agency makes in key components of this vital knowledge base."

Mr. Speaker, the NSF Authorization Act of 2001 implements the recommendations of CNSF. I hope all my colleagues will join me in ensuring that NSF has the necessary resources to carry out its essential role in support of scientific and engineering research and education by becoming cosponsors and supporters of this authorization bill.

HONORING OUT FRONT COLORADO ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender publication in the Rocky Mountain region, Out Front Colorado, for its tremendous success over the past 25 years. In April 1976, the first edition of Out Front Colorado hit the streets, only seven years after the historic Stonewall Riots in New York. As a new publication for a growing community, Out Front Colorado began boldly with its first headline "There's No Turning Back." Indeed, in the last 25 years, Out Front Colorado has played an important role in the cultural and community development of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people in Colorado with valuable news coverage, arts and entertainment, community events, and photographs that have documented the vibrant history of Colorado's diverse community. And its impact continues to grow. Today, Out Front Colorado is available across the nation from New York City to Los Angeles.

The success of Out Front Colorado can in large measure be attributed to its extra-ordinary staff. Out Front Colorado was founded by Phil Price, who sought to create a newspaper that specifically tailored toward Colorado's gay and lesbian residents. Out Front Colorado became successful in its reach and influence under his direction. Although Phil Price passed away in 1993, the current staff of Out Front Colorado should be commended for continuing the superb work that Phil pioneered.

I am pleased to support Out Front Colorado as a valuable institution to Colorado's community and history and am pleased to recognize there's still no turning back!"