

Science Policy Office

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www.agronomy.org | www.crops.org | www.soils.org

Headline - President's 2018 budget: A call to action

Today President Donald Trump sent his first full budget request to Congress. The \$4.1 trillion package **proposes significant budget cuts to discretionary spending, including many research funding programs.**

- USDA Agricultural Research Service cut by \$177 million (-15%)
- USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture cut by \$116 million (-8%)
- National Science Foundation cut by \$819 million (-11%)
- Department of Energy Office of Science cut by \$919 million (-17%)
- U.S. Geological Survey cut by \$163 million (-15%)
- Science and Technology within the Environmental Protection Agency cut by \$263million (-36%)

ASA, CSSA and SSSA oppose cuts to vital federal research funding programs like those within the USDA, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy - Office of Science. Cuts to these programs will dramatically undermine U.S. scientists and engineers' ability to find solutions to our nation's most pressing challenges. See more budget details [here](#).

It is important to remember however, the President's budget reflects his administration's priorities, not necessarily the priorities of Congress. Over the next several months, members of Congress will work together to develop the appropriations bills that will set federal spending for the upcoming fiscal year 2018. **During this time is it critical that Congress hears about the importance of federal food, agriculture and natural resources research programs from constituents like you.**

In order to help our members speak out in support of science and research, we are launching a new advocacy platform that will give you greater ease and accessibility to engaging on policy issues. By opting in to receive our advocacy action alerts, you will have access to the latest science policy information and the most effective ways to act on it.

And our first engagement activity has already launched. [Through this link](#), you can email your members of Congress and urge them to **support federal research programs in the FY 2018 appropriations process.** We must let Congress know that strong investments in research is the foundation of a robust economy, vibrant workforce and healthy citizenship.

You can make a difference. Be a voice for research and contact your members of Congress today!

Headline - Support federal food, agriculture and natural resources research programs in FY 2018

Dear XXX,

I write to urge you to support federal food, agriculture and natural resources research programs in the FY 2018 appropriations process. Federal funding for scientific research is an investment in the prosperity, security and well-being of our nation and its citizens.



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As a constituent living and working in your district I know that these research programs have a direct impact on our community. From new technologies, to medical treatments, to clean water, to a safe and affordable food supply, federal investments in research provide the foundation for a robust economy, a healthy citizenship and a vibrant workforce.

As you and your colleagues begin developing the FY 2018 appropriations bills, I ask you to oppose funding cuts to federal food, agriculture and natural resources research programs like those within the USDA, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy – Office of Science. While I understand the fiscal pressure our nation faces, I encourage you to make strategic investments in our economy through scientific innovation.

The budgetary decisions made today have far reaching impacts: scientific research funded today will be responsible for enhancing the Nation's economic prosperity and productivity and in the future.

I look forward to supporting you in this important effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

