

# Science Policy Office

900 2nd Street, NE, Suite 205, Washington, DC 20002 | Phone: 202-408-5558 | [sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org](mailto:sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org)

[www.agronomy.org](http://www.agronomy.org) | [www.crops.org](http://www.crops.org) | [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org)

Congress is now debating federal discretionary spending for fiscal year 2015. Over the next few weeks, Congress will set the annual budgets for several research funding agencies, including: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

Act now. Tell Congress that science is essential. A strong commitment to federally funded scientific research will boost the Nation's capacity for innovation, agricultural productivity, and economic prosperity.

**You have a unique opportunity to impact the future of research by contacting your members of Congress and asking them to support research-funding agencies in FY 2015.**

To email your members of Congress and urge support click [here](#).

Be a voice for research and email your members of Congress today.

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Dear House and Senate Leaders and Members:

I urge you to support closing the innovation deficit – the widening gap between actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader.

In the coming decades, our agricultural system must sustainably produce food, fuel, feed, and fiber for a rapidly growing global population. Meeting these challenges will require support for a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as biology, chemistry, geology, and engineering. The Nation's economic prosperity and national security depend on our dedication to developing innovative, science-based solutions to meet our growing agricultural needs.

Please support the following areas of innovation in the FY 2015 appropriations.

Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education, and Economics (REE):

- \$1.149 billion for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA's intramural programs that conduct research and provide access to scientific information to solve national agriculture problems of high priority.
- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is USDA's suite of extramural programs whose primary role is to provide a link between federal and state research initiatives through partnerships with educational institutions and competitive grant programs.



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Within NIFA, we specifically support:

- \$360 million for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). AFRI is the premier competitive grants program for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to support of our nation's food and agricultural systems.
- \$244 million for Hatch Act formula funding, which supports agricultural research conducted at state agricultural experiment stations located within our nation's great land-grant colleges and universities.

National Science Foundation:

No less than \$7.5 billion for the National Science Foundation. This funding level will put the premier government-funding agency for scientific research back on track to address these challenges by increasing the broad knowledge base supported by a wide range of scientific disciplines.

Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science:

\$5.111 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science. The Basic Energy Sciences (BES) and Biological & Environmental Research (BER) programs within the Office of Science develop the scientific foundations for new and improved energy technologies.

Science is essential. A strong commitment to federally funded scientific research will boost the Nation's capacity for innovation, agricultural productivity, and economic prosperity.

Sincerely,

