

Science Policy Office

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

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

Investments in geoscience research are essential to the well-being and prosperity of the United States and its citizens. Geoscience research supports resilient communities, strengthens our global and economic competitiveness, enhances national security and contributes to a highly skilled workforce.

However, some members of Congress question the value of geoscience research. This year, the House appropriations bill that funds the National Science Foundation, includes language that directs NSF funding away from the Geoscience Directorate in order to prioritize funding to other programs, **resulting in what would amount to a 16 percent cut to NSF GEO**. Fortunately, the Senate version of this bill does not include this language.

Now that Congress has passed a budget deal that sets funding for FY2016 and 2017, the House and Senate appropriations subcommittees must work together to finalize funding levels for programs like NSF. These next few weeks represent a critical time to reach out to your members of Congress as these funding decisions are being finalized

Now is the time to ask your members of Congress to support geoscience research. Ask them to remove language that would cut geoscience research funding at NSF and speak out on the value and importance of the geosciences.

[Email your members of Congress here.](#)

Restore cuts to the Geoscience Directorate in the National Science Foundation

Dear Representative/Senator:

Investments in geoscience research are essential to the well-being and prosperity of the United States and its citizens. Geoscience research supports resilient communities, strengthens our global and economic competitiveness, enhances national security and contributes to a highly skilled workforce.

As you work with your subcommittee colleagues on the final fiscal year 2016 (FY16) appropriations for the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) bill, I ask that you continue to fund the National Science Foundation (NSF) research and related activities account without prioritizing certain programs within NSF over others. I strongly encourage you to take a balanced approach to NSF appropriations that does not pick winners and losers amongst federally-supported science at NSF.

Specifically, I am concerned by the report language accompanying the House CJS bill which requires NSF to direct 70 percent of its funding to four research directorates. As a result, NSF will be forced to cut over \$250 million, or 16 percent of the combined budget, from the remaining two research directorates: Geosciences and



Science Policy Office

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

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

the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. I ask that you show your support for geoscience research and remove report language that would move funding away from the NSF Geosciences Directorate.

NSF-funded geoscience research and education lead to better understanding of critical national needs such as, water, soil and mineral resources, energy independence, mitigation of natural hazards and weather monitoring and prediction. America's economic competitiveness, public safety and national security rely on our commitment to invest in the geosciences.

NSF is the nation's only science agency charged by Congress to support fundamental science across all scientific disciplines. The agency is the backbone for discovery and innovation in the U.S. I urge you to provide funding across all sciences that will keep the U.S. globally competitive.

