

Science Policy Office

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

With only a few weeks left in the year, there are still major budget negotiations going on in Washington. The October budget deal, that put an end to the government shutdown, funds the government until January 15. If a long-term budget agreement is not reached by then, another round of across-the-board cuts, known as sequestration, will go into effect, reducing discretionary spending by \$20 billion. **These cuts will further strain research funding agencies whose budgets are already stretched thin after several years of flat or decreased funding.**

Congress is currently working to develop a long-term budget plan and **it is critical that members of Congress hear from researchers and students about the importance of research funding.**

Email your members of Congress today urging them to support a responsible budget that replaces sequestration and invests in research funding agencies. **The email campaign is now open online through our new advocacy software, *Engage*.** Go to our *Engage* website and, just by typing in your mailing address, you can easily send an email to both your Senators and your Representative.

You can make a difference - Congress needs to hear from constituent scientists. Tell Congress to support research funding agencies in the FY14 budget negotiations and not subject them to further budget cuts that could threaten America's global competitiveness, economic viability and national security. Forward this email to your department and encourage your colleagues to get engaged and help us stop cuts to science funding. **Be a voice for research and email your members of Congress today!**

Dear:

As Congress works to resolve the differences between the House and Senate budgets, I urge you to support a responsible budget that replaces sequestration and invests in critical food, agriculture and natural resource research.

While it is important to maintain fiscal responsibility, automatic, across-the-board spending cuts without regard to critical investments in science and technology are damaging our nation's research enterprise – research that will be required as we seek to sustainably meet the growing demand for food, fiber, and fuel.

Sequestration cuts compromise our innovation capacity, global competitiveness and economic growth. Cutting-edge research that will help meet the technological challenges of tomorrow will be delayed, or worse, lost.



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Not only do these cuts harm the scientific enterprise of today, but they also limit the opportunities of talented students who are the scientific leaders of tomorrow. Losses in grant funding are limiting our ability to train the next generation of promising researchers that are vital to maintaining our global competitiveness.

Sequestration is devastating to food, agriculture, and natural resource research. This research has led to countless new discoveries that address many of the greatest challenges currently confronting America and the world: enhancing food safety and security, improving sustainability and ensuring a healthy and nutritious food supply.

Thank you for consideration. I encourage you to recognize the significant cuts already made to discretionary research programs and support a responsible sequestration replacement.

Sincerely,

