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President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)
Washington, DC

Thank you for providing the **Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)** the opportunity to comment today. SSSA is a progressive international scientific society that fosters the transfer of knowledge and practices to sustain global soils. The 6,000+ SSSA members are dedicated to advancing the field of soil science by providing information about soils in relation to crop production, environmental quality, ecosystem sustainability, bioremediation, waste management, recycling, and wise land use.

The Soil Science Society of America applauds President Obama's leadership, and now USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Director Sonny Ramaswamy, in addressing global agriculture and food security which are directly linked to soil, soil management and solutions and technologies stemming from soil research. SSSA strongly supports the president's statement made last week at the Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security, calling global agriculture and food security, "a moral imperative, an economic imperative, and a security imperative."

With respect to the national security considerations of agriculture and food security, two recent reports commissioned by the National Intelligence Council---*Global Water Security* and *Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World*—find that "Water problems will hinder the ability of key countries to produce food and generate energy, posing a risk to global food markets and hobbling economic growth. The reports conclude that "Owing to continuing population growth, 36 countries, home to about 1.4 billion people, are projected to be either cropland or freshwater scarce by 2025." Because agriculture uses approximately 70 percent of the global fresh water supply, the greatest potential for relief from water scarcity will be through technology that reduces the amount of water needed for agriculture." Technologies and innovations stemming from soil science research will in part play a key role in achieving these goals and maintaining our food, energy and environmental security and ultimately our national security.

Thank you again for providing us the opportunity to comment before PCAST today.