



American Society of Agronomy • Crop Science Society of America • Soil Science Society of America

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April 24, 2013

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY14 Appropriations—Support for the Department of Energy, Office of Science

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Kaptur:

The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) represent over 18,000 members in academia, industry, and government, and 12,500 Certified Crop Advisers, as the largest coalition of professionals dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil science disciplines in the United States. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are dedicated to developing innovative, science-based solutions to meet our growing food, fuel, feed, and fiber needs. With an ever expanding global population and increasing demands on food and natural resources, investment in agriculture, energy and environmental research is essential to maintaining our nation's food, fuel, economic and national security.

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science. We urge the Subcommittee to support **DOE's Office of Science at a level of \$5.15 billion** for FY 2014, as requested in the President's proposed budget. A strong level of funding will enable the Office of Science to continue to deliver the scientific discoveries and major scientific tools that transform our understanding of nature and advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States.

Specifically, we urge strong support for the following DOE Office of Science programs:

The Basic Energy Sciences (BES) Program is a multipurpose, scientific research effort that fosters and supports fundamental research to expand the scientific foundations for new and improved energy technologies and for understanding and mitigating the environmental impacts of energy use. The research disciplines that the BES program supports include chemistry, soil, mineralogical, and geosciences. These subjects influence virtually every aspect of energy production, conversion, transmission, storage, efficiency, and waste mitigation. For FY14, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support the President's requested **funding level of \$1.86 billion for the BES program**.

The Biological and Environmental Research (BER) Program produces advanced environmental and biological knowledge that supports national security through improved energy production, international scientific leadership, and research that improves the quality of life for all Americans. BER supports these vital missions through competitive and peer-reviewed research at national laboratories, universities, and private institutions. For FY14, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support the President's requested **funding level of \$625 million for the BER program.**

While we understand the budgetary challenges facing the Subcommittee, investments in publicly funded research are critical for maintaining our Nation's place as the global leader in innovation. Even under tight budget constraints, it is imperative to support robust DOE, Office of Science funding if we hope to achieve future research breakthroughs, critical to the success and prosperity of our Nation. The recommended funding level of **\$5.15 billion for DOE, Office of Science** is critical to ensuring our energy self-sufficiency and addressing major environmental challenges.

Thank you for your consideration. For additional information or to learn more about the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, please contact Karl Anderson, Director of Government Relations, at kanderson@sciencesocieties.org or 202-408-4781.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Bergfeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" and last name "Bergfeld" clearly distinguishable.

Ellen Bergfeld
CEO

Cc:

Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies