



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

5585 Guilford Road, Madison, WI 53711-5801 • Tel: 508-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021  
www.agronomy.org • www.crops.org • www.soils.org

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: FY14 Appropriations—Support for the National Science Foundation**

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

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. Meeting these challenges will require support for a wide range of scientific disciplines, biology, chemistry, geology, and engineering, just to name a few. As the premier government funding agency for scientific research, the National Science Foundation is uniquely positioned to increase the broad knowledge base required to address these challenges.

For fiscal year 2014, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support **at least \$7.4 billion for NSF**. Within NSF we support **\$5.9 billion for Research and Related Activities (R&RA)**. Specifically, we urge strong support for the following NSF programs:

Within the Biological Sciences Directorate, **the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems**, which supports the *Plant Genome Research Program* and the *Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development (BREAD)* program.

Within the Geological Sciences Directorate, **the Division of Earth Sciences**, which supports the *Geobiology & Low-Temperature Geochemistry Program* and *Critical Zone Observatories*.

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA strongly support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education efforts in order to prepare the next generation of agronomy, crops, and soils scientists. We support **\$876 million for the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)**. EHR provides thousands of fellowships and traineeships that support students pursuing STEM degrees. EHR also funds research focused on improving K-12 and undergraduate STEM teaching practices.

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 NSF funding if we hope to achieve future research breakthroughs, critical to the success and prosperity of our Nation.

Given the current uncertainty about the President's FY 2014 budget request, we hope this correspondence will be the first step in an ongoing dialogue between the Subcommittee and stakeholders about the FY 2014 budget needs of NSF.

Thank you for your thoughtful 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](mailto: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 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies