



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

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March 19, 2014

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: FY15 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, 12,500 Certified Crop Advisers (CCA), and 781 Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS), as the largest coalition of professionals dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil science disciplines in the United States.

In the coming decades, our agricultural system must sustainably produce food, fuel, feed, and fiber for a rapidly growing global population. The Nation's economic prosperity and security depend on our dedication to developing innovative, science-based solutions to meet our growing agricultural needs.

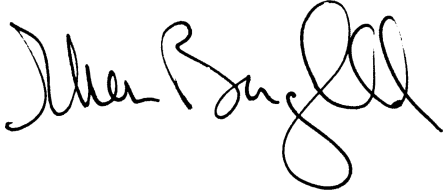
We support no less than **\$7.5 billion for the National Science Foundation** for the fiscal year 2015. This funding level will put the premier government-funding agency for scientific research back on track to address these challenges by increasing the broad knowledge base supported by a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as biology, chemistry, geology, and engineering.

We must close the innovation deficit if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader. China continues to exhibit the world's most dramatic R&D growth at 20.7 percent annually, compared to the United States at 4.4 percent growth over the same time period. By 2009, agriculture R&D fell to a historically low 0.035 percent share of the United States economy, a level far below the total U.S. R&D spending and that which is necessary to meet the critical challenges facing U.S. agriculture in the 21st century.

Science is essential. A strong commitment to federally funded scientific research will boost the Nation's capacity for innovation, agricultural productivity, and economic prosperity.

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 202-408-5382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Bergfled". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bergfled".

Dr. Ellen Bergfled, CEO
American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America

Cc:

Members of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies