



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

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

March 6, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson  
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: FY16 Appropriations—Support for the National Science Foundation**

Dear Chairman Culberson 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 scientists 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 and fuel for a rapidly growing global population. The Nation's economic prosperity and security depend on our dedication to developing innovative, science-based solutions to address the challenges facing our food system.

We support **\$7.7 billion for the National Science Foundation** for the fiscal year 2016. This funding level will put the premier government-funding agency for scientific research on track to address these challenges by increasing the broad knowledge base supported by a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as biology, plant science, chemistry and soil science.

Within NSF we are very supportive of the new **Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (\$75 million)**. There is a pressing need to understand the interconnectedness of food, energy and water. Of particular interest is the production, resilience, safety, and security of food, energy, and water resources. The recent drought in the U.S., which includes major areas of California and Texas, and the corresponding impacts on water, food production and the energy sector is an example of these challenges.

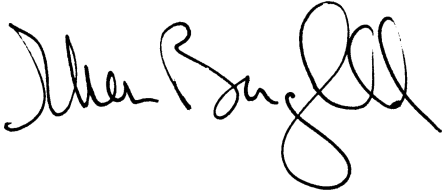
We urge you to include report language highlighting the importance of this new effort and the need to better understand the fundamental science behind the interconnected food-energy-water system.

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.

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](mailto: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".

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