

Science Policy Office

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Every August, members of Congress leave Washington and return to their home states and districts to meet with constituents. The “August recess” is an invaluable opportunity for researchers to have face-to-face meetings with their members of Congress and discuss the important and exciting research being done in their own backyards.

While ASA, CSSA and SSSA each have specific goals as individual societies, greater support for federal research funding and engagement in science policy is a goal we share. Today we come to you with a request. Let’s let Congress know that there are hundreds of researchers across the country who believe that science funding is vitally important for the future of our nation. We are issuing a challenge: **together, let’s schedule 50 meetings, one in each state, with our members of Congress while they are at home this summer.** Only with your help can we convey the importance of a sustained federal investment in food, agriculture and natural resources research.

The timing couldn’t be more critical. Over the past few months, Congress has been working on the funding bills for USDA, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science. Some of these programs have received small budget increases, while others remain flat. **The future of these research programs will be decided in the coming months, so we must act now.**

The August recess represents a great opportunity influence how your members of Congress will vote in the upcoming budget negotiations. By telling them your research story and conveying the importance of research funding in their home district and state, **you can develop a personal relationship with your members of Congress that will lead to new champions for research.**

The Science Policy Office staff will help you to meet this challenge. They stand ready to help you through the process of contacting your members of Congress and scheduling a local meeting or tour. They will provide you with talking points and state-specific information that show the benefits of federally funded research.

They will also offer advocacy and communication training, so that **you will be fully prepared to meet with your member of Congress** and highlight the groundbreaking research happening in your lab and at your institution, thanks to federal funding.

Please don’t miss this opportunity to be an advocate for our sciences. Follow this [link](#) to learn more and to sign up to schedule a meeting.

Thank you for your help and engagement,

