

# Science Policy Office

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[www.agronomy.org](http://www.agronomy.org) | [www.crops.org](http://www.crops.org) | [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org)

The current continuing resolution legislation to fund all discretionary federal spending expires on December 11, 2014. House and Senate Appropriations Committees are hopeful they can reach bipartisan accord on nearly all the fiscal 2015 spending bills in coming days, but they concede that significant issues remain unsettled and leaders will have the final say on the shape of the year-end funding package.

During this time, it is critical that members of Congress hear from researchers and students about the importance of research funding to urge passage of an FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill this year, rather than a continuing resolution based on the fiscal year 2014 appropriations levels. The 113th Congress has an important opportunity to continue its commitment to investing in America's research enterprise by providing sustainable funding to develop innovative, science-based solutions to meet our growing agricultural needs.

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Dear House and Senate Leaders and Members:

I write to strongly urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to pass a fiscal year 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill that includes increased investments in scientific research.

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.

Your continued commitment to U.S. Department of Agriculture - agricultural and natural resources research, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science is essential at a time when federal investments in research are not keeping pace with inflation and our foreign competitors are making significant investments in the scientific enterprise.

In recent years, China and other nations have been rapidly increasing their investments in all fields of scientific research while American investment has started to stagnate. This has created an innovation deficit in the United States.

Our nation cannot compete effectively or close its innovation deficit by funding science and higher education through continuing resolutions. Past continuing resolutions have disrupted the scientific grants process, suspended and impaired ongoing research projects, and caused uncertainty to our nation's scientific and innovation enterprise.

Other nations are enacting long-term strategic plans and making the necessary investments to out-compete the United States. Meanwhile, our nation is losing ground by insufficiently investing in scientific research and making it difficult for science agencies to make long-term planning decisions.



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Your leadership is needed to make scientific research a priority in final FY15 omnibus appropriations legislation, and to take real steps toward closing the innovation deficit.

Sincerely,

