

Science Policy Office

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Ask Congress to prioritize research in the FY 2018 omnibus

After months of tense negotiations, last week Congress approved a two-year budget deal that increased defense and non-defense spending by nearly \$300 billion. The budget deal represents the best opportunity we've had in years to see more funding flow to research at USDA, NSF, and DOE.

Congress has until March 23 to finalize an omnibus spending package for FY 2018. Over the next few weeks Congress needs to hear from constituents like you asking them to prioritize federal research programs in the final FY 2018 omnibus.

We need you to email your members of Congress today and urge them to show their commitment to research and innovation by providing strong support to federal research programs such as USDA, NSF, and DOE-Office of Science in the final FY 2018 omnibus.

Now that the budget agreement has increased the pool of funding for non-defense programs, your engagement is critical to ensure that research agencies are prioritized and receive a bigger piece of the budget pie.

Headline: Prioritize research in the FY 2018 omnibus

Dear XX,

As a constituent of yours and a concerned citizen, I urge Congress to prioritize food, agriculture, and natural resources research programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy-Office of Science in the final fiscal year 2018 spending legislation.

Agriculture and natural resources R&D is fundamental to national security, food safety and security, and U.S. economic stability. It benefits all Americans from small farmers to agribusinesses and to people in urban and rural areas alike. Federal investments in research on agriculture and natural resources are falling behind internationally, and neither the private sector nor local governments are picking up the slack. With at least a 20-fold return on our investment in agriculture R&D, we cannot afford a budget without this as a major priority.

Please show your commitment to American innovation by providing strong support to federal research programs like USDA, NSF, and DOE-Office of Science in the final FY 2018 omnibus.

