

Call to Action - Appropriations Follow Up

This week, congressional appropriators plan to pass another continuing resolution (CR) that would prevent a government shutdown and extend funding through December 20. You can find the text of the agreement [here](#).

Currently, the House has passed ten of the twelve annual appropriations bills and the Senate has passed four. While progress has been made, continued disagreement over funding and policy priorities has delayed a funding agreement for FY 2020.

As Congress nears final consideration of the appropriations bills, consistent with your institution's standard procedures for making congressional contacts, we encourage you to follow up with your state's delegation and reiterate the importance of funding for the agricultural research, education, and extension programs at your university.

In an effort to assist you in doing so, we have provided a sample email for your use. Please note, it includes blanks for you to customize the email, so please do not copy and paste without adding pertinent information. Also, we encourage you to add any additional information about funding for these programs at your university.

Dear _____,

As Congress begins final consideration of the FY 2020 agriculture appropriations bill, I wanted to reiterate the importance of agricultural research, education, and extension programs. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) supports these key programs at **UNIVERSITY** that enhance the stature and impact of food, agricultural, and natural resource sciences across **STATE**.

NIFA awards competitive grants to conduct and integrate fundamental and applied research, extension, and higher education activities and supports capacity programs to direct the practical, applied research needs of agriculture and forestry to our communities.

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) provides competitive funding for innovative research to address the emerging issues affecting our state and numerous sectors of our economy. Capacity programs such as those provided through the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Evans-Allen Act of 1977 support food and agricultural research at Land-grant universities and State agricultural experiment stations. Funding through Agricultural Extension Programs at 1890 Institutions and the Smith-Lever Act support practical and research-based educational opportunities and programs through our university's extension program. Finally, McIntire-Stennis Capacity Grants support programs of state forestry research on reforestation, and forest management protection against insects, disease, and wildfire.

I am asking that **SENATOR X/REPRESENTATIVE X** continue to support **UNIVERSITY** and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' request for an

additional \$145 million. Specific information can be found on our website, land-grant.org, or on our [FY 2020 Conference Priorities One-Pager](#).

Additionally, I would like to express strong support for the fix to the SCRI matching issue provided in the House version of the bill and/or a more permanent solution.

Please contact the Chairman and/or Ranking Member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and express your strong support for our conference priorities.

Thank you for supporting the key programs our Land-grant university uses to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

THE CORNERSTONE TEAM