

Call to Action - Appropriations Follow Up

On September 19, Cornerstone's [Report from Washington](#) reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Subcommittee allocations differ significantly between the House and Senate bills, with total funding for APLU's 6 Core Priorities 6 percent higher in the House bill. Also included in the House version, is a fix to the SCRI matching issue that would allow the Secretary to waive the SCRI matching requirements through Oct 1, 2020.

Prior to formal conference negotiations, and *consistent with your institution's standard procedures for making congressional contacts*, we strongly encourage you to follow up with your state's delegation, with special focus on members of the Appropriations Committees, to reiterate the importance of funding for the agricultural research and extension programs at your university.

In an effort to assist you in doing so, we have provided a sample email and a sample script for your use. Please note, blanks are included for you to customize the email, so please do not copy and paste without adding pertinent information.

EMAIL

Dear _____,

As conference consideration of the FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill nears, I wanted to reiterate the importance of funding for the agricultural research and extension programs that UNIVERSITY uses to positively impact the lives of farmers, ranchers, and consumers across STATE.

Funding for the important capacity programs (Hatch, Smith-Lever, Evans Allen, 1890's Extension and McIntire Stennis), funded via USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), provides the resources needed for universities to maintain the Extension (Smith-Lever and 1890's Extension) and research (Evans Allen and Hatch) capabilities to address the food, natural resource, and energy needs of the nation. Extension funding ensures that the products of this research are distributed to stakeholders, and its application informs further, future research. Additionally, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) provides competitive funding for innovative research to address the emerging issues affecting numerous sectors of our economy.

I am asking SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE to support UNIVERSITY and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities by supporting the funding levels provided in the House version of the FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Specific information on each line can be found on our website, land-grant.org, or on our [FY 2020 Conference Proprieties 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.

Thank you for your continued support of the key programs used by our Land-grant universities to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

PHONE CALL

Hello,

My name is _____. I am the TITLE at UNIVERSITY in LOCATION. I understand conference consideration of the FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill will begin soon and I would like to encourage SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE to support the funding levels for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provided in the **House** version of the bill.

If you have questions about the specific lines, you can find our Conference Priorities One-Pager on our Land-grant.org website under Appropriations Documents.

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

Thank you to you and your colleagues for your continued support for our Land-grant universities.

THE CORNERSTONE TEAM