

Washington Update – FANR Newsletter

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – August 2, 2022

In the leadup to August recess, there have been several developments in agricultural policy of note. The most prominent issues of the last month have been the release of the draft Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2023 (FY 2023), the announcement of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Reconciliation), and the nomination to the Biden Administration of Dr. Arati Prabhakar as the new Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

- ***Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023***

On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies [appropriations bill](#). The overall bill would provide \$27.072 billion in discretionary funding, a \$2.3 billion increase, or 9 percent above FY 2022. The draft bill reflects Democratic priorities and is unlikely to receive formal consideration either in Committee or by the full Senate before current funding for FY 2022 expires on September 30. However, the funding levels and priorities articulated in this draft bill are a starting point for the Senate in negotiating a final package of spending bills for FY 2023. Notably, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would receive \$1.691 billion, \$54 million or 4.7 percent over FY 2022 with modest growth across its programs, but \$77 million less than the House mark. Lewis-Burke's full write-up and link to funding tables can be found at:

http://pages.aplu.org/index.php/email/emailWebview?md_id=18139.

- ***Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Reconciliation)***

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) have reached a tentative agreement on an energy, climate, health care, and tax package referred to as the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#). Overall, the bill would raise approximately \$739 billion in revenue and spend \$433 billion on energy, climate, health care, and tax policies. The conservation programs supported by this bill would include \$8.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP), which incentivizes farmers and ranchers to employ conservation practices. The Senators call for using the over \$300 billion remaining in savings for deficit reduction, which they argue could help combat inflation. The bill would not need any Republican support to pass but will require support from all 50 Democrats. The Senate plans to vote on the legislation next week, and the House is prepared to return to session for votes in the early part of August if the Senate passes the legislation.

- ***Nomination of Dr Arati Prabhakar as the new Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).***

On July 21, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing on President Biden's nomination of Dr. Arati Prabhakar to be the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Prabhakar formerly served as Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) from 2012 to 2017 and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from 1993 to 1997. Committee members from both parties have praised Dr. Prabhakar's career and are optimistic about her leading OSTP.