



American Society of Agronomy • Crop Science Society of America • Soil Science Society of America

5585 Guilford Road, Madison WI 53711-5801 • Tel. 608-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021  
www.agronomy.org • www.crops.org • www.soils.org

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, & Science  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, & Science  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright:

The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) represent more than 8,000 scientists and students, 13,500 Certified Crop Advisers (CCA), and more than 700 Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS). We are the largest coalition of scientists and professionals dedicated to the agronomic, crop, and soil science disciplines in the United States.

In the coming decades, our agricultural system must sustainably produce food and fuel for a rapidly growing global population. The Nation's economic prosperity and security depend on our dedication to developing innovative, science-based solutions to address the challenges facing our food system. We appreciate the appropriations the National Science Foundation (NSF) received in fiscal year (FY) 2023. Yet, as our nation's producers face increasing extreme weather, limited resources, and market uncertainty, NSF's programs become even more important providers of the science they need to stay in business. In order to leverage NSF's core programs, cross-directorate initiatives, and support for the future STEM workforce, increased investments are required.

**We support \$11.9 billion for the National Science Foundation for the fiscal year 2024.** Recognizing the need for a renewed focus on competitiveness and national security, Congress passed the historic *CHIPS and Science Act* with bipartisan support. The legislation authorizes major growth for NSF's new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate, expanded workforce programs, and emerging priorities across the foundation. Congress must now deliver funding for NSF to meet the ambitious goals that the law envisions.

Proposed as a new mechanism for advancing use-inspired and translational research, the TIP Directorate was created to address our most pressing national challenges from climate change to national security to STEM workforce development. However, NSF requires substantial new resources to meet the growing demand for technology development and expanding the geography of innovation. TIP has the potential to transform regional economies around critical technology areas, but it needs major growth to meet demonstrated demand.

Within the TIP Directorate, the Convergence Accelerator program puts systems thinking into research practice. Agriculture researchers are uniquely aware of the multiple disciplines, technologies, and expertise necessary to produce realistic and useful information for producers working in large, multi-faceted outdoor systems. From water management to precision agriculture, this program provides support for exactly the kind of systems-level research successful agriculture requires.

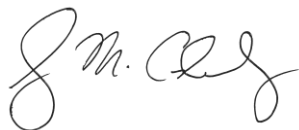
NSF's core programs, especially the Biology and Geoscience Directorates, provide the critical research foundation upon which innovations of the future are built. Robust support for scientific disciplines, such as biology, plant science, chemistry, and soil science will empower our nation's farmers, ranchers, and landowners to make informed decisions grounded in science-based knowledge and support technologies and innovations of the future to meet productivity and sustainability goals.

ASA, CSSA, SSSA have made the commitment to enhancing the experiences, opportunities, and safety of all Society members by creating a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment in our scientific fields of study. NSF can play an invaluable role in addressing the equity challenges facing minority and underrepresented groups within the research workforce. We know that students and researchers from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to choose a field with unreliable funding. Robust federal funding for NSF can advance a more representative and equitable research enterprise by bolstering the student pipeline, expanding educational programs and grants - especially for MSIs, expanding resources for early career researchers, and facilitating collaborations with diverse stakeholders to address existential threats, such as climate change.

Science is essential. A strong commitment to federally funded scientific research will boost the Nation's capacity for innovation, productivity, and economic prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration. For additional information or to learn more about ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, please contact Rachel Owen at [rowen@sciencesocieties.org](mailto:rowen@sciencesocieties.org) or 608-268-4965.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Cudahy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jim Cudahy, CEO  
American Society of Agronomy  
Soil Science Society of America  
Crop Science Society of America

Cc: Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies