

FASEB

Quality Life Through Research

Member Societies

The American Physiological Society

American Society for Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology

American Society for Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society for Investigative
Pathology

American Society for Nutrition

The American Association of
Immunologists

American Association of Anatomists

The Protein Society

Society for Developmental Biology

American Peptide Society

Association of Biomolecular
Resource Facilities

The American Society for Bone and
Mineral Research

American Society for Clinical
Investigation

Society for the Study of
Reproduction

Teratology Society

The Endocrine Society

The American Society of Human
Genetics

Environmental Mutagen Society

International Society for
Computational Biology

American College of Sports
Medicine

Biomedical Engineering Society

Genetics Society of America

American Federation for Medical
Research

*Representing over 100,000
biological and biomedical
researchers.*

President

William T. Talman, MD

9650 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, MD 20814

Tel 301.634.7090

Email wtalman@FASEB.org

Web www.FASEB.org

University of Iowa

Carver College of Medicine

Professor of Neurology and
Neuroscience

200 Hawkins Drive

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Tel 319.356.8752

Email william-talman@uiowa.edu

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

May 18, 2011

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman

Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member Farr:

On behalf of the 23 societies and more than 100,000 scientists and engineers represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), **I urge you to make agricultural research a national priority by providing \$500 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.**

Investment in agricultural research directly benefits all sectors of society and every geographic region of the country. Currently, federal funding for competitive agricultural research is only \$265 million. This is woefully inadequate to ensure the viability of the agricultural enterprise, which contributes \$300 billion annually to the economy.

The ability of the U.S. to meet the need for better nutrition, new biofuels, more efficient agriculture, and a safer food supply will depend on advances in the agricultural sciences as well as the development and retention of a robust and scientifically diverse agricultural research workforce. Now more than ever, support for the agricultural research and development portfolio is critical to the nation's future.

As the Department of Agriculture's principal extramural competitive grants program, AFRI funds agricultural research, education, and extension projects essential to the nation's health and prosperity. The AFRI program maximizes the effectiveness of its resources by facilitating collaborative, interdisciplinary research that addresses broad societal challenges while expanding the fundamental understanding of all life sciences. AFRI also provides training opportunities to encourage young scientists to undertake agricultural research. **Because of the critical activities undertaken by AFRI, I urge you to support AFRI at a funding level of \$500 million in the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.**

Sincerely,



William T. Talman, MD
FASEB President

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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

May 18, 2011

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the 23 societies and more than 100,000 scientists and engineers represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), **I urge you to make agricultural research a national priority by providing \$500 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.**

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