

## Call to Action - Senate Appropriations Follow Up

On Tuesday, June 25, Cornerstone's [Report from Washington](#) reported that the House approved the second appropriations package, H.R. 3055; the 5-bill minibus that includes the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The Senate is currently working on their version of the Agriculture Appropriations bill and will likely consider the bill when the Senate returns from the August recess. *Consistent with your institution's standard procedures for making congressional contacts*, we encourage you to follow up with your state's Senators and reiterate the importance of funding for the agricultural research and extension programs at your university. Many Senators and their staff will be in their states during the upcoming August recess. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with them or invite them to campus and deliver this message in person.

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.

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As 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 X uses to positively impact the lives of STATE X's farmers, ranchers and consumers.

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, 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 provides competitive funding for innovative research to address the emerging issues affecting numerous sectors of our economy.

I am asking SENATOR X to support UNIVERSITY X and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' request of an additional \$125 million for our six priority programs. Specific information on each line can be found on our website, [land-grant.org](#), or on our [FY 2020 One-Pager](#).

Thank you in advance for supporting 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,

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**THE CORNERSTONE TEAM**