

Science Policy Office

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Now is the time to ACT! Tell Congress to avoid cuts to science funding TODAY!

As you probably know, America is rapidly approaching the so called “fiscal cliff” – a devastating combination of across-the-board budget cuts, known as sequestration, and a series of tax increases. **Sequestration cuts mean less funding for government agencies that support research**, like the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Less funding means fewer grants, lab closures and layoffs. We cannot let this occur.

As we speak, Washington leaders are trying to work out a debt deal that will avoid the fiscal cliff and put America on a path to economic sustainability. While it may be hard to believe, it’s possible **that a plan to avoid sequestration could actually be worse for science funding agencies** than sequestration itself.

Because of this, we’re asking all ASA, CSSA and SSSA members to reach out to their Congressional delegation TODAY and urge them to craft a comprehensive deficit reduction plan that **does not include further cuts to science, technology and research programs**. Join with hundreds of other national, state and local organizations on this “Day of Action” where the research community is letting Congress know that further cuts to science funding will compromise our nation’s security, global competitiveness and economic growth.

Follow this easy guide to reach out to your members of Congress in support of science funding.

1. Find your members of Congress [here](#). Once you have identified your members of Congress, use the “Contact Form” link to access their contact information.
2. Decide how you want to reach out to your members. Follow the links below to find instructions and sample message you can use.
 - a. [By email](#)
 - b. [By phone](#)
 - c. [On Facebook](#)
 - d. [On Twitter](#)
3. For even more options to engage with Congress, register with the free online advocacy service, Blastroots. They are hosting the “[Don’t Let Science Go Over the Fiscal Cliff](#)” campaign, which asks Congress to avoid further cuts to science funding. Once you create an advocacy account, you can sign a petition from the research community and easily email, message and tweet to your Congressional delegation.

Also be sure to check out the ASA, CSSA and SSSA science policy websites. There you can find an [advocacy toolkit](#) with information on the potential effects of sequestration, as well state-specific data about the local benefits of research funding. You will also find more sample emails, messages and tweets that you can use to encourage Congress to act and avoid further cuts to research funding.

Speak out along with the rest of the research community TODAY in support of the scientific enterprise!

