



March 4, 2008

The Honorable John Spratt, Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) encourages the Budget Committee to support increased funding for the sciences across the federal government, particularly the National Science Foundation and the various federal agencies that support basic biological and environmental research. These agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, US Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

AIBS is a nonprofit scientific association dedicated to advancing biological research and education for the welfare of society, sustained by a robust membership of some 5,000 biologists and nearly 200 professional societies and scientific organizations; the combined individual membership of the latter exceeds 250,000.

We recognize the challenges your committee faces in providing adequate funding within tight budget constraints. AIBS is grateful for the past commitment Congress has shown science, but we are concerned that budgets, specifically biological and environmental research budgets have not kept pace with inflation. This research is central to our continued global leadership in science and technology and is fundamental to our ability to understand and mitigate the impacts of global environmental change, the spread of diseases from wildlife to humans, and our ability to maintain sustainable food systems, among many other issues.

Invigorating our nation's innovation enterprise, improving science education, and addressing energy, security, and environmental problems are bipartisan national priorities.

Should you require further information, please feel free to contact Dr. Robert Gropp, AIBS Public Policy Director at 202-628-1500 x 250. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your past support of federal investments in scientific research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. O'Grady", written in a cursive style.

Richard T. O'Grady, Ph.D.
Executive Director