The American Chemical Society’s Message to Congress

“Keep Science Funding Strong for FY 2018”

- As you are aware, the administration’s FY 2018 budget request proposed a $54 billion increase in defense spending, with an equivalent $54 billion in cuts for non-defense programs, including federal scientific research.
- Science research, whether conducted in the private sector, at a university or within a federal agency or laboratory, requires predictability and a sustained effort to produce positive results.
- I welcomed the bipartisan cooperation that occurred to complete the Fiscal Year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Act and to demonstrate support for federal scientific research.
- I strongly urge you to continue to work together to provide strong and robust funding levels for scientific research in the FY 2018 appropriations process. Specifically, I ask that you consider my requests for a few specific programs.

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB)

- For FY 2018, I strongly urge Congress to not defund the CSB as outlined in the administration’s FY 2018 budget request.
- The CSB is currently funded at $11 million a year. The administration requested $9.4 million for FY 2018, with funds appropriated to shut down the agency.
- The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the agency's board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- The CSB conducts root cause investigations of chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities. Root causes are usually deficiencies in safety management systems, but can be any factor that would have prevented the accident if that factor had not occurred. Other accident causes often involve equipment failures, human errors, unforeseen chemical reactions, or other hazards. The agency does not issue fines or citations, but does make recommendations to plants, regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), industry organizations, and labor groups. Congress designed the CSB to be non-regulatory and independent of other agencies so that its investigations might, where appropriate, review the effectiveness of regulations and regulatory enforcement.
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

- For FY 2018, I urge Congress to provide NIST $1.0 billion, an increase of $46 million or 4.6 percent from the FY 2017 funding level. This request level also includes a $14.9 million increase for inflationary cost changes.
- The administration requested $725 million for FY 2018, 24 percent below FY 2017 funding levels.
- The resources requested would enable NIST to continue to expand and strengthen programs to more effectively address a number of scientific and technological issues. From advanced manufacturing and communications to biomedicine, NIST’s work contributes to high-priority sectors that are critical for U.S. economic competitiveness and innovative capacity.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- For FY 2018, I urge Congress to provide at least $8 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- The administration requested $6.6 billion for FY 2018, 11 percent below FY 2017 funding levels.
- I also ask Congress to maintain its longstanding commitment to the diversity of research disciplines NSF supports, each of which contributes in profound ways, advancing our nation’s domestic interests and global competitiveness. Our recommendation for $8 billion for NSF in FY 2018 is consistent with “Innovation: An American Imperative.” This call-to-action which was signed by more than 500 organizations from American industry, higher education, science and engineering last year, encourages Congress to enact policies and make investments to ensure that the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Department of Energy’s Office of Science

- I am strongly opposed to President Trump’s FY 2018 budget request for the DOE’s Office of Science. The proposed $900 million cut – a 17 percent decrease – would jeopardize U.S. leadership in critical scientific fields responsible for creating new jobs, spurring economic growth and supporting vital national security missions. This dramatic cut would also cause the United States to fall further behind other countries in building the next generation of world-class scientific facilities, which are essential to our global competitiveness.
- I urge Congress to increase funding for the DOE’s Office of Science to $5.7 billion in FY 2018, an increase of 5 percent real growth above the FY 2017 enacted levels. This level of funding will enable the Office of Science to: support and advance scientific research programs that are essential to our economic growth, energy and national security; support training for the next generation of American scientific and engineering research talent; continue to build world-class scientific tools and facilities; and support the network of the DOE National Laboratories.
Supplemental Ask

Congressional Chemistry Caucus

- I also ask you to consider joining the newly formed Congressional Chemistry Caucus.
- The bipartisan and bicameral Caucus was formed by Representatives John Moolenaar (R-MI) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) in the U.S. House and Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT), Christopher Coons (D-DE), and Gary C. Peters (D-MI) in the Senate.
  - The Congressional Chemistry Caucus to the House was launched on April 27, 2016
  - The Congressional Chemistry Caucus to the Senate was launched on March 29, 2017
- The caucus’ mission is to educate Members of Congress, their staff, and the public on the benefits of chemistry in today’s society and its economic impact on our country. It will serve as a group of Members dedicated to issues related to the transformative power of chemistry, and will strive to promote and advance pro-chemistry policies and encourage today’s students to become the chemists of tomorrow.
- Please contact:
  - Lindsay Ryan at Representative Moolenaar’s office; or
  - Leah Rubin Shen or Levi Patterson at Senator Coons Office