



FY2011 Funding for the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE April 2010

Position: The Council for Chemical Research (CCR) applauds the proposed \$429 million budget (a 63% increase) for the new National Institute of Food and Agriculture's key competitive research program, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). CCR appreciates the changes USDA has implemented; NIFA provides the platform for interactions and enhanced collaboration with industry and universities in multidisciplinary research areas. CCR members are ready and willing to work with NIFA to enhance the effectiveness of their programs. CCR also is pleased that funding to improve food safety is proposed to be increased by \$18M.

Who We Are: CCR is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing multi-sector, multi-disciplinary research in the chemical sciences and engineering. Its member organizations – companies, universities and government laboratories – are represented in CCR by their research leaders.

We recognize the budget constraints faced by Congress but strongly urge that funding for physical sciences research be strengthened as an investment in our Nation's future. Our studies (<http://www.ccrhq.org/publications>) and those of others demonstrate that Federal investments in chemical science research yield significant payback for the US economy. **Every dollar of Federal investment is leveraged by \$5 of private investment; this investment generates ten dollars of operating income for industry (a 17% annual after tax return), the economy gains roughly \$40 in GDP, \$8 in increased tax revenues, and creates 600,000 new jobs over the ensuing 20 year period.**

Rationale

Funding for research in chemistry, engineering and physical sciences at USDA:

- **Addresses current and emerging critical food security issues.** Research on new technologies to detect biological and chemical toxins and to make stronger, more productive crops will help protect and sustain US food resources.
- **Provides innovations for converting agricultural materials and waste materials into energy sources and chemical feedstocks.** U.S. energy and economic security requires development of new and renewable sources of energy. Agricultural products can provide an important source for both energy production and chemical feedstocks.
- **Contributes to the nation's scientific and technological prowess** by providing a scientific base in a broad array of fields dedicated to making reliable food and energy available throughout the nation. The recent R&D funding cuts in USDA's research portfolio have erased the last 10 years of gains. This research is necessary to maintain international competitiveness of the agriculture, energy, chemicals and bio based materials industries and to maintain security systems for the nation's food supply
- **Produces well-trained, talented and dedicated researchers** that are required to identify alternative fuels and develop the processes to make them efficiently to help improve the security of the nation's food supply. CCR urges USDA to develop additional ways to support and increase the number of PhD students produced in the U.S.A. in the physical and agricultural sciences.
- **Allows access to modern instrumentation**, ranging from advanced computers to synchrotrons and radiation sources. These instruments enable researchers to observe fundamental chemical and physical processes and to gain much-needed insight into the chemistry, physics and engineering of new products and processes.
- **Provides discoveries** that lead to new chemical processes for agriculturally based fuels and safe food supply, new crop strains that are pest and drought resistant, bio based materials that will provide novel products and new types of energy resources to reliably and securely supply energy to the nation.