



# FY2018 Appropriations Priorities

## INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

### ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities.

With a membership of 237 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement.

Annually, its 195 U.S. member campuses enroll 4 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.7 billion in university-based research.

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### NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

#### APLU FY2018 Request: \$155 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$42M; FY2017 = 149.8M; FY2016 = \$147.9M)

The NEH is the lead federal agency focused on the development and support of scholarship in the humanities. NEH is a vital source of funds for scholars and researchers whose work helps citizens and policy-makers alike better understand and address the social, economic, political and cultural challenges facing our nation and world today. For example, the NEH division-wide initiative, [Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War](#), funds grant proposals to help promote discussion and foster a deeper understanding of the military experience and impact of war. These grants also support returning veterans and their families.

APLU urges Congress to fund the NEH at \$155 million, including increased support for the competitive core programs, which will help NEH rebuild its capacity to support humanities research. NEH grants are awarded on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to organizations and institutions in every U.S. state and territory. Many grants provide significant leveraging of nonfederal funds through matching requirements. Regardless of whether the activities help veterans adjust to higher education, provide for research on historical documents, or support documentaries that cover important periods of our national history, the NEH seeks to address many of the societal questions that impact all of us.

### U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

#### Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRIs)

#### APLU FY2018 Request: \$9 million

(FY2018 PBR = 0; FY2017 = \$6.5M; FY2016 = \$6.5M)

The WRRIs are essential to solving state, regional and inter-jurisdictional water resources problems with federal funding serving as the driving force of collaboration in water research and education. WRRIs leverage federal funds to address a range of water-related issues, from drought mitigation and emergency management to protecting aquifers and reducing water treatment costs. The institutes also train the next generation of water resources managers and scientists. Water troubles and difficulties continue to challenge our society and have far-reaching impacts for human health, food production, and even fundamental trust in our governments. Increased support for the WRRIs will help fund needed additional research to address these important challenges. APLU recommends \$9 million for the WRRIs in FY2018.

## **APLU FY2018 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (cont'd)**

### **Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units (CRUs)**

**APLU FY2018 Request: \$22.5 million**

(FY2018 PBR = \$17.3M; FY2017 = \$17.4M; FY2016 = \$17.4M)

The CRUs consist of 40 Units in 38 states and are true federal-state-university-private partnerships. The Units target the interface of science and management and are crucial to successfully addressing the natural resource management challenges of the nation. They also train the next generation of natural resource professionals, grounding them in science while giving them a management-orientation with experience at the private, state, and federal levels. APLU requests \$22.5 million for FY2018.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**

### **Office of Science and Technology**

**APLU FY2018 Request: \$754 million**

(FY2018 PBR = \$450M; FY2017 = \$706M; FY2016 = \$735M)

APLU recommends \$754 million in FY2018 for the EPA Office of Science and Technology (S&T), a critical funder of grants to increase our understanding of the risks to human health and ecosystems, and to develop innovative solutions to these problems. Within EPA S&T, APLU strongly supports the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, which competitively funds research grants and graduate fellowships in environmental science and engineering disciplines. Recent STAR awards have supported research on water conservation, quality and access, and the relationship between urban air pollution and tuberculosis.

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