

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

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A•P•L•U) is an association of over 230 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses enroll more than 4.4 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, employ more than 1.3 million faculty members, and conduct academic research totaling more than \$41 billion annually.

As the nation's oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit www.aplu.org

FY2015 Appropriations Priorities INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

APLU is part of the broad business, university and science community concerned about cuts and stagnating federal funding in science and research at a time when other nations are increasing their research investments. We believe the FY2015 Interior Appropriations bill must work to close this innovation deficit with reasonable increases in key accounts, as described below.

These investments will develop the ideas, the people, and the innovations that power our economy, create jobs, improve health and strengthen our national security, ensuring that the U.S. maintains its role as global leader. Additionally, the growth supported by this innovation will help the nation address its fiscal challenges.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

APLU Request: \$154 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$146M; FY2014 = \$146M; FY2013 = \$146M*)

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.

APLU urges Congress to fund the NEH at \$154 million, including increased support for the competitive core programs. 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.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRIs)

APLU Request: \$8.8 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$3.5M; FY2014 = \$6.5M; FY2013 = \$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 contribute significantly in emergency planning and hurricane recovery, protecting groundwater aquifers from sea water intrusion and reducing water treatment costs. The institutes also train the next generation of water resources managers and scientists.

Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units (CRUs)

APLU Request: \$18.6 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$18.6M; FY2014 = \$17.3M; FY2013 = \$18.8M*)

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.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA Office of Science and Technology

APLU Request: \$794 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$763M; FY2014 = \$784M; FY2013 = \$794M*)

APLU advocates for \$794 million, the FY2012 enacted level, for the EPA Office of 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.

**FY2013 appropriated amounts, pre- across-the-board cuts to achieve ATRA budget caps AND pre-sequester cuts*