

March 17, 2017

Update on President Trump's Proposed 2018 Budget Blueprint

Yesterday the President released his proposed blueprint for fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending across the federal government, including programs that fund scientific research. We expect a traditional, comprehensive budget in May or June 2017, which will provide more information and specificity on funding for our discipline and science broadly.

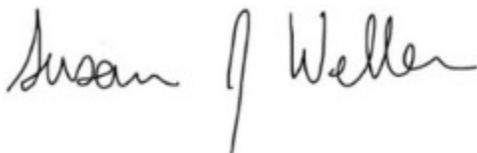
With any new Administration, its first budget request to Congress ambitiously attempts to translate promises made during a campaign into reality. This is no less true with the budget blueprint released by President Trump, and it should be viewed as a political document. Meanwhile, as Congress retains the purse strings, this is simply the first step in the budgeting process. Congressional committees will host budget hearings with agency heads and Secretaries, and annual appropriations bills will likely be drafted in May. Though we take the Trump Administration's proposal seriously, there is much that can be done to actively oppose these recommended cuts.

ESA leadership is working hard to protect the interests and advance the priorities of the entomology community and support bedrock scientific principals broadly. As you are hopefully aware, the Society has increased its [advocacy efforts](#) over the last several years. This includes providing content for our members on ways to engage decision makers and effectively advocate for entomology and basic research generally, as well as specific investments in activities such as our [Science Policy Fellows program](#). This is one reason why we felt it was important for ESA to be a key supporter of the [March for Science](#) coming up on April 22.

If you haven't engaged with Congress before, we are creating [more tools to help get your message across](#) and we periodically post on the blog [Entomology Today](#). We'll be hosting a [webinar on April 19](#) which is open to all our members to provide more information on ways to participate in advocacy activities and how to be an effective champion of science.

In the end, it is very unlikely that FY 2018 funding for research will be identical to what was proposed in yesterday's budget blueprint. Congress will make the decision about what gets funded and it's critical that you make your voice heard. We will do our best to empower our members to do that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan J. Weller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan J. Weller

2017 ESA President