



# American Society of Plant Biologists

*Cultivating a better future through plant biology research*

May 11, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

On behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB), I am writing to express our great appreciation for the Committee's work on the *National Science Foundation for the Future Act*. This legislation incorporates many priorities important to the ASPB community. Specifically, we are particularly supportive of the climate change research; food-energy-water research; and biological research collections provisions that the bill includes.

We are hopeful that, if this bill is passed, NSF's Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) will meaningfully participate in these efforts. As scientific research becomes increasingly interdisciplinary with permeable boundaries, a diverse portfolio at NSF is needed to maintain transformational research and innovation. NSF BIO supports cross-cutting research questions that could ultimately solve grand challenges related to climate change, developing a sustainable food supply, energy security, and improved health and nutrition.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank you for including robust authorization levels for research and education related activities at NSF. We also applaud the inclusion of "social and economic inequality" and "STEM education and workforce" as vital societal challenges the NSF Director shall consider in identifying focus areas for the proposed Science & Engineering Directorate.

NSF's mission is critical to the nation – and to ASPB – and progress cannot be made without transformation and the funding to do it.

Thank you again for your work on this important legislation.

Crispin Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer, American Society for Plant Biologists

*The American Society of Plant Biologists, founded in 1924 as the American Society of Plant Physiologists, was established to promote the growth and development of plant biology, to encourage and publish research in plant biology, and to promote the interests and professional advancement of plant scientists in general. ASPB members educate, mentor, advise, and nurture future generations of plant biologists; they work to increase understanding of plant biology, as well as science in general, in K-16 schools and among the general public; they advocate in support of plant biology research; they work to convey the relevance and importance of plant biology; and they provide expertise in policy decisions world-wide.*

*Overall, ASPB members, as representatives of the society, work to disseminate information and excitement about plant sciences, especially through ASPB's advocacy, outreach activities, conferences, and publications.*

For more information: <https://aspb.org/>