

**Testimony on federal research support by Greg Cuomo,
Chair, Council of Research Associate Deans
Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural
Resource Sciences (CFANS), University of Minnesota Twin Cities
10 a.m., March 9th, 2018, 2308 State Senate Office Building**

I am Greg Cuomo, Assoc. Dean, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (CFANS), proudly located in the Fourth Congressional District. I am here with Bob McMaster who will focus on the student experience.

- I am **representing the research enterprise of the University of Minnesota**
- I want to **thank** to Rep. McCollum and her colleagues on the appropriations committee.
- At the U of M we appreciate appropriators who have help protect—and in the case of NIH, increase—research resources that are critical to the success of research and knowledge generation in Minnesota.
- As you know, the University of Minnesota relies on competitive research funding from federal agencies to advance knowledge.
 - Federal funding accounted for **59 percent** of UMN's \$745 million in outside research awards last year

I am going to focus on a few key Federal funding areas.

- **NIH:** Last year, the appropriations committee helped lead a \$2B boost for NIH in the face of a proposal to cut the agency by 20% .
 - Under the two-year budget deal reached last month, we are thrilled that appropriators have plans for increased NIH funding in both FY 2018 and FY 2019.
 - These are welcome increases.
- NSF - We feel similar gratitude that appropriators protected the **National Science Foundation**.
 - This research funding is core to the U of MN research effort. That's why we strongly support an increase for NSF's budget, from \$7.5 Billion in FY 2017 to \$8.5 Billion in FY 2019.
 - Without Federally funded 'public good' research, the continuum necessary for innovation, implementation to adoption is incomplete.

- Licensing technology is one way we directly drive economic activity. The U of MN also actively collaborates with Business and Industry. **The U of M has helped launch more than 120 startup companies since 2006.**
- USDA - CFANS, my college, relies on support from the **USDA**. I was in Washington earlier this week with colleagues from around the country, and part of our task was to talk about the importance of USDA funding....particularly Capacity Funding

Capacity funding insures Funding predictability and is important to good research. It enables us to have the skilled people in place to respond to economic emergencies like the Avian Influenza outbreak that devastated poultry producers a few years back and address long-term issues like the invasive species that threaten MN.

- Switching from Big Science for a moment, there is again a proposal to cut the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, Both of these programs provide critical support that enable the University to respond to, and serve all citizens of MN
- Before I conclude: We also appreciate appropriators continuing support for our research infrastructure and we hope you will continue to fight for critical **Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost reimbursements.**

Conclusion:

- Decreases in Federal funding means fewer grants resulting in fewer **discoveries, which fuel economic growth and improve to the quality of life in Minnesota.**
- The **University of Minnesota contributes to the economy** through the education and training and through the ideas it provides to our economy.
- **Federal Research Funding** helps drive our state, regional and national economy. One study found that each \$1 of NIH funding generates about \$2.21 in local economic growth. (<https://www.fic.nih.gov/News/GlobalHealthMatters/may-june-2012/Pages/us-economic-impact-research.aspx>)