

ESCOP B&L Committee

<http://escop.info/committee/budget-legislative-committee/>

Monthly Conference Call

Notes

Participants

Mike Harrington
Bill Brown
Sarah Lupis
Ernie Minton
Saied Mostaghimi
Gary Thompson
Jeff Jacobsen
Dave Benfield
George Hopper
Jon Wraith
Alton Thompson
Doug Steele
Josh Stull
Jim Richards
Becky Walth
Vernie Hubert
Saied Mostaghimi

USDA Update: Tomorrow, the Secretary of Ag will be visiting several locations, including Penn State.

Budget Update: Mike gave an overview of Cornerstone's proposed budget line reorganization. The group discussed options for moving this effort forward. There was agreement that the effort needs to move forward with a strategic communications component to address concerns of those potentially affected by changes. The next steps are to wait for Mark's letter on behalf of the BAA.

Cornerstone Update: The government is running again. Until they get through emergency supplemental appropriations and immigration, the overall budget will likely remain a point of leverage for Democrats. Likely that it will be into March before FY18 is resolved. Infrastructure and rural prosperity are likely to be major components of the State of the Union and, therefore, part of the budget for FY19.

The Farm Bill has been drafted in the House and sent to CBO; waiting for a score. The disaster supplemental has money for cotton and dairy. Depending on how this is resolved, it could take lots of pressure off the Farm Bill. SNAP and SNAP-ED are still big questions, as is getting rid of match requirements for AFRI and other competitive NIFA programs.

B&L Meeting at AHS/CARET: There is no option to meet jointly with WEDA this year. Most ESCOP B&L members will be there. There was also some discussion on the need to update folks on moving beyond

the OneAsk and moving beyond Farm Bill priorities. Mike has made arrangements with APLU—we have a breakfast meeting space reserved. Given that we will likely not make enough progress on line reconsolidation, it was suggested that we steer away from that topic and instead focus on the increase and the key topic areas. There was some discussion about how to approach explaining what an increase would be spent on. Gary Thompson suggested we highlight our existing impacts around topics like ag biosciences, IMP, water, tactical science, rural prosperity, etc.

It was agreed that the EDs would develop communications materials that are inclusive of the entire Family and highlight examples of impact and how that could be enhanced with additional funding. Mike will reach out to Jim Richards to start the ball rolling.