

July 15, 2010

**Dear IPM Supporter,**

Are you willing to change the future of IPM?

President Obama's proposed FY2011 budget has omitted funding for the USDA's Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program, often called "Section 406." Section 406 programs include the Regional IPM Centers, CAR (Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation), RAMP (FQPA Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program), Methyl Bromide Transitions and many other programs crucial to the public and environmental health of our nation.

As you may already know, at the end of June the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its F.Y. 2011 bill and **did not** vote to restore funding for the Regional IPM Centers, CAR, and RAMP.

Other programs funded through Section 406 including the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative, the National Integrated Water Quality Initiative, and Methyl Bromide Transitions were restored in this mark-up.

It is now up to the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to restore funding for the Regional IPM Centers, CAR, and RAMP.

To restore funding for these important programs, **IPM stakeholders such as yourself need to take action!** Here are three ways to help restore the remaining Section 406 programs (IPM Centers, CAR, and RAMP):

- Contact Senators on the Senate Appropriation Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies (aka, Senate Ag Appropriations Subcommittee). Find contact information at <http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-agriculture.cfm>
- Contact your own Senators and Representatives, or copy them on letters sent to the Agriculture Appropriations members. Of particular concern are those Senators on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee. Find contact information at <http://www.votesmart.org/>
- Spread the word to others at your institution and in your professional organizations about the situation and encourage them to address it now. Those of us employed by public agencies and universities may be constrained in how we can communicate with elected officials, but all are free to educate our peers about the situation.
- For talking points about the value of Regional IPM Centers, CAR, and RAMP, [click here](#).

We thank you for your immediate action. If the Section 406 integrated pest management programs are terminated, their invaluable benefits to farmers, ranchers, and society will be lost.

Sincerely,

The IPM Voice Advocacy Committee

**P.S.** Another way to help is to join with IPM Voice (<http://www.ipmvoice.org>) in this and other efforts to advocate for IPM.