

Environment and Public Policy Committee

Members:

Charlie Butterworth  
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1. The Committee has acted on two requests during the past 12 months resulting in recommendations to the ASPT council to endorse:

September 2007

Subject: Wildlife Climate funding

Draftees: Native Plant Conservation Campaign of the Center for Biological Diversity

To: House and Senate Appropriations

Summary: This letter encouraged committees working on funding for climate change to include plants under the provisions for wildlife. It seems that a considerable amount of arm twisting happened with congressional aides to change the language of the bill as well as the letter that was endorsed by most of the plant and biological societies.

March 2008

Subject: NSF funding

Draftees: American Society of Plant Biologists, the Consortium of Social Science Associations and the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

To: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, Chairman Mollohan, and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen.

Summary: This letter encouraged increases to the NSF budgets of the biological sciences, geosciences, and social, behavioral and economic sciences directorates for the fiscal year 2008 comparable to the other directorates. It seems that there was some movement towards funding applied sciences to the detriment of basic sciences.

2. The committee also communicated with the Director of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign encouraging this nonprofit to correspond with the committee in any scientific issues relating to the promotion of plants. I personally felt that their letter was not well worded and could have been stronger.