

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Conference Call
February 28, 2012
NOTES**

Attending:

Steve Slack, H. Michael Harrington, Ernie Minton, Jim Richards, Karen Plaut, Bill Brown, Bob Shulstad

Budget Update - Jim Richards

- Deadline for priority requests
 - March 20 - House
 - March 30 - SenateMarkup expected in April, for House, and Senate later
- Ag bill should get completed this FY, House version will be austere; Senate should be more comparable with FY '12 position.
- Sequestration? Current law deadline is Jan 13th, our program could see 9-12% cuts on average, but if Defense, Homeland Security are protected the amounts could be more – up to 20%
- Mandatory Programs and Farm Bill
 - Expect Specialty Crops, Organic R&E, Beginning Farmer Rancher programs to be included
 - But funds are needed to pay for the program to be obtained by cutting elsewhere

Crop Protection White paper discussion

- Any comments or questions should be sent to Mike asap or by COB on Friday March 3

Next scheduled call: March 27

This time conflicts with the SAAESD spring meeting so an alternative time will be sought