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OPINION

Budget proposal will harm Georgians

Scientific research and its urgently needed applications in shaping and administering environmental safeguards will collapse under the current federal budget bill. Public health will suffer similar impacts.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science declares, “If enacted, the FY26 budget... would end America’s global scientific leadership. The cuts to science would imperil our nation’s future health, security, and prosperity.”

Throttling funds for science will recklessly imperil medical research, undoubtedly costing thousands of lives due to the loss of 2,400 staff at the Centers for Disease Control and 3,400 at the National Institutes of Health.

Nationwide, we face some \$5 billion in budget reductions at EPA, where two-thirds of employees are scientists. Nearly 600 positions protecting Georgia will be eliminated. Environmental programs will be unable to ensure safe drinking water, clean air, and follow-through in detoxifying industrial sites polluted with chemicals that plague thousands of Georgians.

Prior to budget cuts, the Trump administration terminated National Science Foundation grants for over 100 research projects related to climate change, worsening a partisan effort to slash federal funding for scientists and institutions analyzing the formidable damages of global overheating.

Billions of additional cuts in NSF funding will further scuttle climate research required to curb trillions in accelerating costs due to higher temperatures – including drought, flooding, and premature deaths. Likewise, slashing FEMA funding will dangerously weaken preparation for hurricanes and magnify their damage.

Concerned Georgians should oppose this destructive budget proposal because it undermines America’s scientific capabilities, degrading our prosperity and quality of life.

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