



The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
The Honorable Ted Cruz
The Honorable Gary Peters
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

12 September 2016

Dear Senators Thune, Nelson, Cruz, and Peters:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), whose mission is to promote discovery in Earth and space science for the benefit of humanity, as well as its 60,000 Earth and space scientist members, we appreciate the committee's hard work in writing a bipartisan NASA Transition Authorization draft bill that seeks to ensure that NASA's space and science missions remain robust during the presidential transition. However, we have concerns regarding the draft's coverage of NASA's science missions.

We're concerned that the bill's omission of any language regarding Earth science or heliophysics deprioritizes these science directorates, especially in light of the bill's language highlighting planetary science. Although we appreciate the bill's recognition of the role of the decadal surveys in guiding NASA's science programs, the lack of any language regarding the value of any Earth science missions or solar research is troubling.

We're also concerned about the bill's authorization levels, specifically for NASA's science missions. NASA's science programs are essential to NASA's mission and it is imperative that we continue to grow all of our science programs if we hope to further our understanding of our solar system and universe.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to answer any questions you might have, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a bright future for our country's scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

Lexi Shultz
Director, Public Affairs Specialist
American Geophysical Union