



The Honorable Thad Cochran
S- 128 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
H-305 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
S- 146A U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

5 August 2016

Dear Members of Congress

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union and its 60,000 Earth and space scientist members, we thank you for all of your hard work crafting the FY17 appropriations bills. **In order to preserve the strength of our nation's scientific enterprise, we strongly encourage you to complete the FY17 appropriations this year and avoid a long-term continuing resolution.** If a continuing resolution were to go beyond this calendar year, federal science agencies would be unable to award new grants, plan new missions, or budget appropriately. Not only would these limitations cost the agencies valuable time, money and resources, they would also stifle American innovation and competitiveness.

Additionally, while we recognize the fiscal constraints facing Congress, **AGU is concerned about the essentially flat funding of NASA, NOAA, NSF, and USGS.** As the appropriations process evolves, **we urge you to support strong investments in these key Earth and space science agencies and avoid policy riders that deprioritize the geosciences.**

Strong, robust, and predictable investment in America's scientific enterprise remains one of the surest ways to encourage economic growth, increase the safety of our nation and its citizens, and advance our understanding of the world around us. Thank you for your support for the geosciences and we look forward to continuing to work with you on these priorities throughout the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lexi Shultz", written in a cursive style.

Lexi Shultz
Director, Public Affairs