



10 February 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) more than 60,000 members – Earth and space scientists striving to advance scientific research for the benefit of humanity – we applaud the introduction of H.R. 810, the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015”, and urge its swift passage.

AGU supports directives in Title III that would identify our needs in monitoring and forecasting space weather events, create research opportunities for students and young scientists, provide a robust assessment of the Mars exploration architecture, and reaffirm NASA's legacy of allowing the judgment of scientists, via the decadal surveys, to inform the planning of missions that advance our understanding of the universe.

Additionally, we applaud the legislation for preserving the ability of NASA's Earth Science Division to conduct its work without the worry of increasing limitations posed by the transfer of external programs. At a time when NASA faces major fiscal constraints, adding to its portfolio of Earth observing satellites without reimbursement from outside agencies threatens the development of existing and planned missions.

While this bill is critical for NASA to thrive in the short-term, AGU continues support the passage of bipartisan and multi-year authorizing legislation. Only with long-term planning can the agency fulfill its mission, and AGU is committed to helping achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Shultz  
Director, Public Affairs  
American Geophysical Union