Background Information:  
**AGU Fall Meeting Congressional Visits Ask**

Prevent the enactment of harmful sequestration spending caps

**Ask:** I urge you to reach a bipartisan budget agreement that raises the spending caps and maintains parity between defense and non-defense discretionary spending.

**Why:** If the sequestration caps were to go into effect in 2020, non-defense discretionary spending would receive an across the board cut of 6% and then an additional 6% cut in 2021. When viewed in constant dollars, many agencies’ budgets have not increased since 2010, including NSF and NASA. American science agencies cannot afford any more cuts. Science and innovation are drivers of American leadership, well-being, and economic growth.

Historically, in times of tight budgets there have been calls to cut non-defense discretionary funding to ensure that defense funding increases. For example, President Trump’s FY2018 budget called for increases to defense spending to be paid for with cuts to non-defense discretionary programs. Therefore, it’s essential that any budget agreement also maintain parity between defense and non-defense spending. Non-defense discretionary spending includes funding for science agencies, including EPA, DOE’s Office of Science, the Forest Service, NSF, NASA, NIEHS, NOAA, and USGS. Funding for defense should not come at the expense of vital science that grows our economy, protects our nation, and ensures our public well-being.