Dear Senator,

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union and its 60,000 Earth and space scientist members, we would like to thank you for your work crafting the fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations bills. As Congress begins consideration of the FY 2020 budget, we hope you will continue to support investment in Earth and space science, which is essential to the well-being and prosperity of the United States. As part of your support for science, we urge you to reach a bipartisan budget agreement that raises the spending caps and maintains parity between defense and non-defense discretionary spending.

Congress demonstrated its commitment to the success of our nation’s scientific enterprise through past bipartisan and bicameral efforts such as the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which raised the Budget Control Act (BCA) caps for FY 2018 and 2019. We ask that you once again recognize that a budget agreement ensuring parity between defense and non-defense discretionary spending is essential to a strong scientific enterprise and a strong nation.

Scientific research has long been the backbone of America’s success. Science is essential for the forecasts and warnings that keep communities safe from natural disasters, for our access to critical minerals necessary for national security, and for the economic advantages resulting from STEM education opportunities, among many other benefits. Our federal science agencies contribute to all this invaluable research and much more, driving our nation’s well-being, security, and economy.

We understand the challenges that Congress faces in addressing all of our nation’s priorities within tight budget constraints. However, strong and predictable investment in America’s scientific enterprise remains one of the surest ways to encourage economic growth, increase the safety and security of our nation and its communities, and advance our understanding of the world around us. Robust investment in science pays off for America and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Christine McEntee
CEO/Executive Director
American Geophysical Union