



25 March 2021

The Honorable Frank Lucas
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Lucas and Chairwoman Johnson:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and our community of 130,000 worldwide in the Earth and space sciences, I am writing to thank you for crafting the Rural STEM Education Research Act (H.R. 210) and to offer AGU's official endorsement for this important bill.

High-quality and accessible STEM education is essential to preparing a science-literate 21st century workforce, and AGU shares your commitment to ensuring that the benefits of STEM education is shared across the nation.

By encouraging the National Science Foundation to establish a rural STEM education program, the Rural STEM Education Research Act will expand pre-K through 12th grade STEM education within communities that have traditionally been underrepresented in science. In addition, by creating regional cohorts of rural STEM educators, this bill will provide peer support and mentoring opportunities that will equip educators with the best STEM education teaching practices available. Finally, by encouraging the growth of broadband internet access in rural communities, the bill will make high-quality STEM resources available to learners of all ages.

Within the United States, AGU members teach and conduct research across the country in rural and urban educational institutions. As such, AGU members can attest to the fundamental role that diverse perspectives and backgrounds play in making science stronger.

Given our strong shared interests on the goals of this legislation, AGU appreciates your leadership and looks forward to working with you on this critical issue in the future.

With best wishes,

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

Alexandra Shultz
Vice President, Public Affairs
American Geophysical Union