

25 October 2021

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Sherrill:

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 introducing H.R. 1437, the Providing Research and Estimates of Changes in Precipitation (PRECIP) Act and to offer AGU's official endorsement for this important bill.

The frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events in the U.S. has increased since 1901—a trend that is expected to continue as Earth's climate continues to warm—which makes accurate precipitation data vital to building a climate and hazard resilient nation.

AGU applauds the bill's goal of ensuring that decision-makers have access to the most accurate, up-to-date precipitation information by investing in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) precipitation research and data collection capabilities and a partnership between NOAA and the National Academies. When it comes to determining flood risk, it is impossible to ignore the effect of increasing extremes in precipitation. Our water infrastructure, including flood control infrastructure, is not designed to manage the storms of the future. In the face of the changing climate, new methods and more long-term data are needed to calculate flood risk accurately and adequately protect communities.

Within the United States, AGU members work to measure, predict, manage and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events. As such, AGU members can attest to the importance of ensuring that precipitation data is regularly updated and best practices are used for precipitation estimation.

Given our strong shared interests in 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,



Lexi Shultz

Vice President, Science Policy & Government Relations
American Geophysical Union