

AGU Congressional Asks Spring 2025

Protect and preserve the scientific research and workforce enterprise

**Do not share this document with Congressional offices; it is only to help you prepare to talk to your members of Congress. If you have any questions related to these asks email sciencepolicy@agu.org with the subject line APRIL ASKS.

Ask #1: Support robust increases for the Earth and space sciences throughout the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process through dear colleague letters and appropriations requests.

** Focus only on the agency(s) you have a connection to or is important to your district.

NASA Science Mission Directorate	\$ 9 Billion
NASA Office of STEM Engagement	\$ 150 Million
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	\$ 7.2 Billion
National Science Foundation (NSF)	\$ 9.9 Billion
DOE Office of Science	\$ 9.5 Billion
U.S. Geological Survey	\$ 1.85 Billion
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	\$ 996.23 Million
NIEHS Superfund Research Program	\$ 90.47 Million

Background:

All federal science agencies receive funding through the appropriations process. For an overview of the appropriations process watch this [short video](#) (<5 min).

Although the President has not yet released his budget with his priorities, members of Congress have already begun Fiscal Year 2026 conversations. AGU will be focusing on trying to shape those discussions, emphasizing the need for increased funding in FY2026 given the harms caused by the FY2025 continuing resolutions (CR) and recent policies on federal science agencies. As a reminder, under a CR agencies cannot start new programs, and existing programs cannot be stopped.

These asks were developed in coordination with agency stakeholder community coalitions, that include universities/colleges, the private sector and other professional societies. Therefore, AGU and its members will be one of many groups asking members of Congress to fund science at these levels.

As you develop your message, here are some starting prompts:

- Our communities' safety and prosperity, as well as our country's economic strength, are dependent now more than ever on the strength of our scientific enterprise.
- Investing in science is one of the surest ways to create economic growth, opportunity and prosperity for Americans.
- The U.S. scientific enterprise depends on a robust skilled STEM workforce ecosystem, including support for K-12 education, support staff, graduate students, and scientists.
- Advancements in science create new knowledge and benefit all citizens.

- *Highlight how your science benefits your district and state...*
 - *Economically*
 - *Public health or safety*
 - *National security*
 - *The next generation*

Ask #2:

House: Cosponsor (support) legislation that would halt reductions in force (RIF (layoffs) at federal science agencies.

** Focus only on the agency(s) you have a connection to or is important to your district.

H.R.2207	To institute a reduction in force moratorium at the Department of Energy.
H.R.2208	To institute a reduction in force moratorium at the National Science Foundation.
H.R.2209	To institute a reduction in force moratorium at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
H.R.2210	To institute a reduction in force moratorium at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
H.R.2211	To institute a reduction in force moratorium at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Senate: Introduce legislation similar to the House legislation that would halt RIFS at federal science agencies.

** Focus only on the agency(s) you have a connection to or is important to your district.

Background:

House Science, Space and Technology Committee Democratic leaders introduced legislation that would place a moratorium on RIF at certain federal science agencies until fiscal year 2026 appropriations legislation is enacted (likely in at the end of 2025 or Spring 2026).

When a member of Congress introduces (authors) a piece of legislation they are called the “sponsor.” Other members of Congress can show their support for the legislation by becoming a “cosponsor” of the bill.

If you want to talk to your Representatives in the House about any of these bills, be sure to double check they are not already a sponsor or cosponsor of the bill. You can check by clicking on the links above and looking at the cosponsors tab on [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).

If they are a sponsor or cosponsor you can thank them for supporting the bill(s).

As you develop your message, here are some starting prompts:

- Between the ongoing court cases, indiscriminate nature of the policies, and lack of consistency in agency understanding and application, the uncertainty and irregularity of agency RIFs are harming science.
- *Highlight examples of:*
 - Students and early career scientists seeking opportunities in other places, especially other countries
 - How the loss of science, information, and data depended on by industry will impact those industries and society i.e. impact to farmers using precision farming or community partnerships that have been disrupted
 - Loss of important data that cannot be recouped
 - Waste caused by abrupt policy and personnel changes
 - Any programs or initiatives that have been decimated due to layoffs
 - The local and human impact of these policies