



AGU Science Policy & Government Relations

Powering our Impact:

AGU Voices in Action
2025

<http://sciencepolicy.agu.org/>

AGU Members Get Loud to Safeguard Science



AGU's online engagements enabled 10,400 members of the AGU community to send 39,800 emails and make 2,930 phone calls to Members of Congress to:

- Secure 92 supporters for key science legislation
- Protect federal science employees from wrongful layoffs and firings
- Send 47 comments to federal regulators protecting science's role in policymaking
- Bolster Congressional support for NCAR in the face of closure and elimination of key weather and climate science

AGU's seventh Voices for Science cohort (2024-25) conducted 913 outreach activities and directly engaged more than 115,600 people, not counting the millions more reached through news and social media.

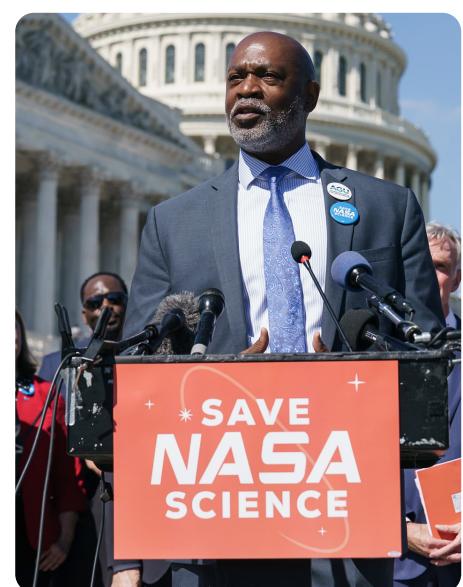
As a result of the program, AGU members:

- Joined a Colorado town's Air Quality Advisory Board
- Started a newly established position to address invasive soft corals in Hawaii
- Were invited to join the cross-agency U.S. Satellite Needs Working Group
- Founded and developed a non-governmental weather forecasting website for the Bengali speaking people of Bangladesh and India

"The Voices for Science program was a pivotal experience for me. It provided structured training, community, and a platform to elevate my voice as a scientist and advocate. Beyond personal growth, this program strengthens the AGU community by cultivating a culture of engagement and empowering scientists to be proactive in bridging science and society."

In a chaotic political environment, AGU's Local Science Partners adopted new tactics and engaged their legislators and communities more than ever to advance science policy.

- 7 former or current Local Science Partners published op-eds in papers from Maine to California on topics from human health to science infrastructure. Over a dozen partners submitted op-eds to publications.
- Partners also wrote over a hundred emails, made phone calls, attended town halls including a constituent pizza party and led colleagues in district visits.



Despite Challenges, AGU Secures Policy Wins

AGU Congressional visits brought almost 200 AGU members face-to-face with lawmakers, helping prevent billions of dollars in cuts to science.

AGU community advocacy helped to prevent:

- An almost 50% cut in funding for NASA Earth Science
- Elimination of climate programs in NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR)
- Major cuts to NSF's Education & Human Resources Directorate, including the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
- Cancellation of USGS's planned three satellite architecture for Landsat Next

AGU continues to advance and defend climate science to ensure a thriving and sustainable future.

In 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sought to overturn the scientific finding that climate change harms human health and welfare. AGU testified against the proposal and organized a robust opposition letter, signed by nearly 1,000 experts in climate science or health impacts, re-affirming the strength of the underlying science.



Signed by
nearly
1,000
Experts

AGU provided feedback, support, or endorsement for 34 bills, critical to preserving or advancing the Earth and space sciences.



AGU Endorsed Legislation Passed the House of Representatives:

- **National Volcano Early Warning & Monitoring System Reauthorization Act:** enables the U.S. Geological Survey to continue to improve its volcano monitoring and early warning capabilities around the country.
- **Protect America's Workforce Act:** repeals the presidential executive order that stripped union rights from roughly 1 million federal workers including at the Department of Energy and U.S. Geological Survey.



AGU Endorsed Legislation Advanced through Congressional Committees:

- **National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Reauthorization Act (House & Senate)**
- **National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act (House & Senate)**
- **TORNADO Act (Senate)**
- **Weather Act Reauthorization Act (House)**

AGU Science Policy Grows to Meet the Moment



AGU stepped up to protect international students in the United States.

In September, AGU submitted a comment urging the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to not move forward with proposed changes to student and researcher visas “duration of status.” The proposal would set a cap for these visas, including limiting student visas to 4 years. This proposal would severely limit the choices and autonomy of international students to pursue education and careers in STEM.

In partnership with other scientific societies, AGU signed onto an amicus brief fighting against what we deem to be unlawful termination of students F-1 visa status for thousands of students studying in the US.

AGU’s capacity to serve its global community through science policy and communication programming continues to expand.

AGU’s third global Voices for Science cohort (2024-25) included 5 AGU members from Canada, France and Germany. Together the cohort:



The fourth global Voices for Science cohort (2025-26) includes 13 AGU members from 3 continents:



AGU takes legal action to protect U.S. federal scientists.



AGU joined a coalition lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration’s Executive Order to fire tens of thousands of probationary U.S. federal employees—including scientists at NOAA, NSF, USGS, and other agencies. In September, the court issued a decisive ruling in our favor condemning the government’s rationale as “disingenuous” and the records submitted as “a fabrication” and “a sham.” This victory underscores AGU’s commitment to protecting the integrity of the federal scientific workforce.

AGU is also a plaintiff in a second, ongoing lawsuit against the Administration’s Executive Order mandating sweeping layoffs and agency reorganizations—an overreach that threatens scientific capacity, environmental protection, innovation and national security. A federal judge denied the government’s attempt to dismiss the case, ensuring the facts will be heard despite a Supreme Court procedural ruling.