

18 August 2026

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schatz and Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and our global community of more than half a million Earth and space scientists and allies, I write to thank you for crafting and introducing S.3910, the ReSCUE Oceans Act, and to offer AGU's endorsement for this important bill.

With the impacts from the carbon dioxide humans emit each year becoming increasingly more severe, interest has rapidly been growing in marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), which would deliberately enhance the ocean's capacity to absorb those emissions. However, the science needed to evaluate the effectiveness as well as the ecological and socioeconomic effects of mCDR has not kept pace with that interest.

Rigorous, independently verified, and transparent research is essential before any of these methods can be responsibly deployed. AGU's [Ethical Framework for Climate Intervention](#), which includes mCDR approaches, outlines a code of conduct to guide researchers, funders, and policy makers in this field.

The ReSCUE Oceans Act will help drive research to understand the effectiveness and impacts of mCDR and will do so in a way that incorporates many elements of AGU's recommendations. By establishing a coordinated federal framework across NOAA and other relevant agencies, and by funding research, monitoring, and field testing, the ReSCUE Oceans Act would give scientists the tools to assess mCDR approaches on their merits, with appropriate environmental and community safeguards built in from the start.

AGU applauds the approach of allowing science to inform whether mCDR can be deployed safely and effectively and working to ensure public trust is earned rather than assumed. Thank you again for your leadership in bringing this framework forward. We stand ready to help see this crucial legislation advance and ensure mCDR research proceeds on a sound scientific footing.

With best wishes,



Lexi Shultz
Vice President, Science Policy & Government Relations
American Geophysical Union