27 May 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned geoscience organizations and our tens of thousands of members – Earth scientists and universities advancing scientific research for the good of our nation and world – we urge you recognize that investment in geoscience research is essential to the well-being and prosperity of the United States and its citizens.

Geoscience research funded by NSF, NOAA, and NASA provides invaluable knowledge about protecting American lives and infrastructure from tornados, hurricanes, and other natural hazards, sustaining biological diversity and ocean resources, conserving soil and water for agricultural productivity, and finding and maintaining adequate supplies of minerals and natural resources. The Earth sciences are critical components of the overall science and technology enterprise and should be increased.

Now is the time for Congress to improve our national and economic security by continuing to recognize the value of the geosciences, such as:

- Natural hazards research that improves our understanding of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and landslides, and will allow for better planning and mitigation in these areas that will reduce future losses.
- Earth resources research, which contributes to a better understanding of the natural distribution and uses of mineral and energy resources that are essential to modern civilization.
- Research on water resources, including improving and addressing major gaps in our understanding of water availability, quality, and dynamics.
- Weather and atmospheric research that helps save lives and property by allowing continual improvement in forecasting, tracking, and warning for severe weather events.

For these reasons, we support strong funding levels for geosciences and we remain committed to working with all appropriators to pass an appropriations bill for the federal science agencies that aligns with the needs and goals of the U.S. scientific enterprise.

America's economic competiveness, public safety, and national security depend on our commitment to invest in the Earth sciences. Our organizations urge you to support the geosciences and set forth a vision to spur science innovation and growth and recognize the vital role of the geosciences in achieving this mandate.

Sincerely,

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Meteorological Society
American Society of Agronomy
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Crop Science Society of America
Geological Society of America
National Ground Water Association
Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc.
Soil Science Society of America