

July 25, 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rockefeller,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2014, and on the importance of federal investments in basic science research.

Innovative advances in science have been the cornerstone for economic excellence, robust national defense, and the high quality of life enjoyed within the United States. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2014 continues your tradition of supporting scientific excellence. The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) would like to thank you and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for taking up this bill and for supporting strong federal investments in science and technology.

AGI supports the aims of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act to authorize appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF) at the agency level. We urge you to reject in principle proposals to authorize funds at the directorate level.

AGI endorses the Sense of Congress as expressed in Section 503 including support for robust basic research, the value of scientific conferences, and the importance of training our workforce. We respectfully suggest that you make two additions to Section 503 to recognize the important contributions of the geosciences to public health and safety, the economy, and national security and to support continued strong investment in geoscience research.

- We urge you to insert the term “geoscience,” into Sec. 503(a)(2) in line 19 after the term “physical,”
- We suggest that the phrase “, and the geosciences;” be added to Sec. 503(b)(4)(A) line 9, after “economic sciences,”

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments to the Committee. If you would like any additional information please contact Maeve Boland at 703-379-2480, ext. 228, mboland@agiweb.org, or 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302-1502.

Sincerely,



Maeve A. Boland
Director, Geoscience Policy