

16 May 2015

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis,

On behalf of the **American Geosciences Institute (AGI)**, a federation of professional science societies representing more than a quarter million geoscientists, geo-engineers, and other Earth scientists, thank you for your amendment to the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1806) in support of the Geosciences Directorate (GEO) and the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) within the National Science Foundation (NSF).

NSF GEO supports basic research and technological innovations critical to understanding Earth's complex systems. GEO-funded research enhances our understanding of natural hazards, ocean acidification, and Earth's Polar Regions—among other topics—that greatly improve our ability to prepare for natural disasters, respond to decreases in maritime productivity, and retain American preeminence in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Proposed cuts to NSF GEO would severely decrease our ability to respond to these threats and more, reducing our ability to adequately protect public health & safety, bolster the economy, and maintain national security. **AGI strongly supports your amendment to increase authorization levels for the NSF GEO and SBE Directorates to reflect the President's fiscal year 2016 Request of \$1.37 billion and \$291.46 million, respectively.**

Thank you again for your strong support of the geosciences. Attached please find a list of suggested examples and talking points of current, NSF GEO-funded research that showcase the innovative nature of the geosciences. For more information, please contact Maeve Boland, American Geosciences Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302. mboland@agiweb.org. 703-379-2480 x228.

Sincerely,



Dr. P. Patrick Leahy
Executive Director
American Geosciences Institute