

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

May 9, 2014

PRESIDENT

Bery H. Tew Jr.
Geological Survey of
Alabama

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, Chairman
Subcommittee on Research and Technology
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Eric M. Riggs
Texas A&M University

The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

PAST PRESIDENT

Sharon Mosher
Jackson School
of Geosciences

Dear Chairmen Bucshon and Smith:

SECRETARY

Dorian E. Kuper
Kuper Consulting

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a federation of 49 professional geoscience societies that represents approximately 250,000 Earth scientists, thanks you for your support of scientific research, which provides a crucial foundation for innovation and job creation in the United States.

TREASURER

Richard J. Lambert
Roscoe Postle Associates

I am writing in reference to Section 303 of H.R. 4186, the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology (FIRST) Act of 2014. Section 303 addresses Public Access to Research Articles and Data, and requires plans for archiving and retrieving research articles for public access.

MEMBER AT LARGE

Katharine Lee Avary
Consulting Geologist, WV

Subsection (c)(2) stipulates

[F]ree online public access to such covered material –

(A) In the case of a research article, consistent with appropriate embargo periods but not later than 24 months after publication of the research article in a peer-reviewed publication;

MEMBER AT LARGE

John G. Parrish
California Geological
Survey

The geoscience community appreciates your efforts to balance the benefits of open access with the need to preserve vigorous scientific societies, many of whom rely on income from publications. **AGI considers a restricted access period of at least 24 months for research articles a wise choice.**

AGI FOUNDATION

Richard M. Powers
Consultant

Professional scientific societies serve as critical innovation hubs for science communities, strengthening the quality of science produced and reinforcing the rigorous standards that uphold the integrity of the scientific process. The length of the embargo period has significant implications for the continued survival of many professional scientific societies, which use the revenues gained from the sale of publications to cover the costs of other critical programs, including mentoring for young scientists, student grants, and outreach to the general public among other activities. Without revenue from publications, some societies will have to severely limit their activities and some may cease to exist. The loss of scientific societies will be harmful for science overall. The longer embargo period provides a greater chance for the survival of societies while also promoting the wider distribution of scientific results through eventual open access.

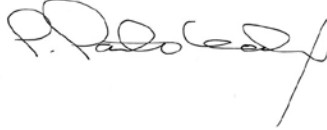
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. Patrick Leahy

AGI would be pleased to work with you on this issue. Please contact Maeve Boland (mboland@agiweb.org, 703-379-2480, ext. 228) if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. P. Patrick Leahy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Patrick Leahy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Executive Director
American Geosciences Institute