



2018 Geoscience Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD)

September 12-13, 2018

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| What to Expect | 3 |
| Schedule | 4 |
| Getting around Capitol Hill | 5 |
| WMATA Metro | 5 |
| Wi-Fi | 5 |
| Dining Areas | 5 |
| Geo-CVD Area Map | 6 |
| Geo-CVD Message and Ask | 7 |
| The Ask: Legislative Summaries | 8 |
| National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act | 8 |
| National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act | 8 |
| National Landslide Preparedness Act | 9 |
| Digital Coast Act | 10 |
| Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act | 10 |
| The Ask: Caucus Summaries | 12 |
| Congressional Hazards Caucus | 12 |
| House Earth & Space Science Caucus | 12 |
| Congressional Soils Caucus | 13 |
| Congressional Oceans Caucus | 13 |
| Tips for Your Visits | 14 |
| Glossary of Congressional Terms | 15 |
| Status of FY 2019 Appropriations | 17 |

What to Expect

Day 1: Training

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

1307 New York Ave NW

Washington, DC 20005

On Wednesday, September 12, participants will spend the afternoon at an orientation and training workshop geared toward honing their communication skills. Participants will learn and/or review the basic principles of how Congress works, how to conduct meetings, meeting with congressional staff, and relevant legislation, federal agencies, and programs they should be aware of. At the end of the workshop, participants will break off into small groups with their team leaders to craft and practice delivering their messages with the help of experienced geoscience policy staff.

Day 2: Meetings

Capitol Hill

Washington, DC 20002

On Thursday, September 13, participants will spend the day on Capitol Hill meeting with Members of Congress and/or their staff. Participants will be split into groups of 3-5 people, which are determined in advance based on geographic region, and each group will typically attend 4-7 meetings. These meetings are arranged by the policy staff from organizing geoscience societies, who will also accompany participants on their congressional office visits.

Schedule

Wednesday, September 12th

- 11:30 am–5:00 pm** **Orientation and Communicating with Congress Workshop**
(Lunch Provided)
APLU, 1307 New York Ave NW #400, Washington, DC 20005
- 11:30 am–12:00 pm Sign-in and lunch available
- 12:00–12:30 pm Welcome & Introductions
Janice Lachance, Executive Vice President, American Geophysical Union
- 12:30–1:00 pm Overview of Federal Geoscience Funding
Kasey White, Geological Society of America
- 1:00–1:30 pm Legislative Update
Elizabeth Duffy, Seismological Society of America
- 1:30–1:45 pm BREAK
- 1:45–2:15 pm Message and Ask
Carissa Bunge, American Geophysical Union
- 2:15–2:35 pm Messaging Worksheet Activity
Carissa Bunge, American Geophysical Union
- 2:35–2:45 pm BREAK
- 2:45–3:45 pm Congressional Panel Q&A
- 3:45–5:00 pm Group Practice
- 5:30–7:30 pm** **USGS Coalition Reception & Exhibition *(optional)***
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2075, Washington, DC 20515

Thursday, September 13th

- 8:30 am–5:00 pm** **Congressional Visits**
Capitol Hill, Washington, DC 20002
- 4:30–6:30 pm** **Post-GeoCVD Debrief *(optional)***
Bullfeathers, 410 First Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

Getting around Capitol Hill

WMATA Metro

If you are going to the Senate buildings, Union Station (red line) is the closest metro stop. For the House side, the closest metro stop is Capitol South (blue, orange, and silver lines). It is approximately a 15-20 minute walk between Union Station and Capitol South Station.

Wi-Fi

Free public Wi-Fi is available in the House Office Buildings (Rayburn, Longworth, and Cannon).

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| House WiFi network: | HousePublic |
| House WiFi password: | HousePublic |

Although there is WiFi available in the Senate buildings for congressional staff, the password changes regularly. There is also WiFi available at Cups & Co. in the Russell Senate Office Building basement.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Cups & Co. (Senate) WiFi network: | cups |
| Cups & Co. (Senate) WiFi password: | 2028632938 |

Dining Areas

You will find several places to eat in the House and Senate Office Buildings. The following are some ideal spots to grab coffee or a bite to eat in between your meetings.

Longworth Cafeteria – Located in the basement of Longworth House Office Building, B-233

Rayburn Cafeteria – Located in the basement of Rayburn House Office Building, 2063

The Hart Senate Chef – Café located in the Dirksen/Hart ground floor connecting corridor, G-21 (open 8:00 am to 6:30 pm, Mon-Fri)

Dirksen Café – Cafeteria in the basement of Dirksen Senate Office Building, B-R7 (open 8:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Cups & Company – Breakfast and coffee shop in the Russell Senate Office Building in the basement corridor on the north side, B-65 (open 7 am to 5 pm, Mon-Thu, and Friday 7 am to 4 pm when Senate is out of session); WiFi available with “cups” network password

Library of Congress – Main Cafeteria on the 6th floor of the James Madison Memorial Building (open for breakfast 8:30 to 10:30 am, and for lunch 11 am to 2 pm)

Geo-CVD Area Map



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Association of Public and Land-grant Universities 2. McPherson Station (Blue/Orange/Silver Lines) 3. Metro Center Station (Red/Blue/Orange/Silver Lines) 4. Union Station (Red Line) 5. Russell Senate Office Building | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Dirksen Senate Office Building 7. Hart Senate Office Building 8. Cannon House Office Building 9. Longworth House Office Building 10. Rayburn House Office Building 11. Capitol South Station (Blue/Orange Silver Lines) |
|---|---|

Geo-CVD Message and Ask

The Message

We sincerely appreciate congressional support for geoscience research and funding in fiscal year 2018.

Strong and sustained federal investments in geoscience and a timely funding process contribute to:

- Building resilient and safe communities and infrastructure
- Strengthening our economy and global leadership
- Enhancing our national security
- Educating and preparing a highly-skilled geoscience workforce

The Ask

Note: Groups can pick and choose which “Asks” to bring up at their meetings, depending on participants’ interests and whether these issues are relevant to the congressional offices they are visiting.

Ask 1: Support funding for geoscience research and applications at agencies such as:

- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – Earth Science, Planetary Science, and Heliophysics
- Department of Energy (DOE) – Office of Science
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) science research

Ask 2: Consider supporting current geoscience-related legislation, such as:

- National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act ([H.R. 4475](#), [S.346](#))
- National Landslide Preparedness Act ([H.R.1675](#), [S.698](#))
- National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act ([H.R. 4033](#), [S.1787](#))
- Digital Coast Act ([H.R.4062](#), [S.110](#))
- Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act ([H.R.3086](#), [S.141](#))

Ask 3: Join a caucus that supports the geosciences, such as:

- Hazards Caucus
- Earth and Space Science Caucus (House only)
- Soils Caucus (House only)
- Oceans Caucus

See *Legislative Summaries* (pg. 7-10) and *Caucus Summaries* (pg. 11-12) for more information.

The Ask: Legislative Summaries

National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act

(H.R. 4033 in the House; S. 1787 in the Senate)

Purpose: This bill amends the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 to:

- (1) reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) established by the Act through fiscal year (FY) 2023, and
- (2) provide for the Associate Director for Core Science Systems at the USGS to replace the Associate Director for Geology as chairperson of the geologic mapping advisory committee.

Co-sponsors (House): Doug Lamborn (R-CO-5), Anthony Brown (D-MD-4)

Co-sponsors (Senate): Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Angus King (I-ME), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Tom Udall (D-NM), Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

Status (House): The bill was introduced in October 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resource, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. The subcommittee held a hearing to consider the bill in November 2017, followed by a full committee hearing and mark-up session in December 2017. The committee [reported](#) the bill favorably without amendment. It was placed on the Union calendar in January 2018 and now awaits a vote on the House floor.

Status (Senate): The bill was introduced in September 2017 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The bill is currently awaiting further action by the committee.

National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act

(H.R. 4475 in the House; S. 346 in the Senate) *PASSED IN THE SENATE

Purpose: This bill directs the USGS to establish the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System to monitor, issue warnings for, and protect U.S. citizens from undue and avoidable harm from volcanic activity. The national system would organize, modernize, standardize, and stabilize the monitoring systems of U.S. volcano observatories and unify them into a single interoperative system.

The bill also directs USGS to:

- (1) submit a five-year management plan to Congress for establishing and operating the system,
- (2) establish an advisory committee to assist in implementing the system, and
- (3) report to Congress annually describing the activities carried out under this bill.

Co-sponsors (House): Don Young (R-AK-At Large) **no other current co-sponsors*

Co-sponsors (Senate): Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

Status (House): The bill was introduced in November 2017. The House Committee on Natural Resources considered the bill at a [hearing](#) on November 30, 2017, and it was [reported](#) favorably back to the House for a vote by the full chamber.

Status (Senate): The bill was introduced in February 2018 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. It passed in the Senate on May 17, 2018.

National Landslide Preparedness Act

(H.R. 1675 in the House; S. 698 in the Senate)

Purpose: The bill directs the USGS to create a National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program to identify and understand risks and reduce losses from landslide hazards, and to help improve communication and emergency preparedness.

Additionally, the bill directs the USGS to:

- develop and publish a national strategy for landslide hazards and risk reduction every 5 years,
- distribute landslide planning and risk reduction guidance for communities,
- expand the NOAA/USGS early warning system for post-fire flash floods and debris flows,
- establish emergency response procedures for the rapid deployment of federal scientists, equipment, and services to areas impacted by a major landslide event, and
- establish a national 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) to update and produce standard, publicly accessible data for the U.S., in coordination with other agencies and nonfederal entities.

The bill does not specify any authorizations of appropriations for the programs and activities outlined.

Co-sponsors (House): Suzan DelBene (D-WA-1), Bonamici (D-OR-1), Cartwright (D-PA-17), Lee (D-CA-13), Norton (D-DC-At Large), Smith (D-WA-9), Kilmer (D-WA-6), Heck (D-WA-10), Grijalva (D-AZ-3), Polis (D-CO-2), Tipton (R-CO-3), Torres (D-CA-35)

Co-sponsors (Senate): Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Patty Murray (D-WA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Status (House): The bill was introduced in March 2017 and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment. The Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on this bill, among others, on November 30, 2017. A markup was held in December 2017 and the bill was reported on favorably by a voice vote. It now awaits action on the floor.

Status (Senate): The bill was introduced in March 2017 and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. It has also been wrapped into the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017, which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Note: For the GeoCVD ask, if relevant, we want the committee to take action on the bill.)

Digital Coast Act

(H.R. 4062 in the House; S. 110 in the Senate) *PASSED IN THE SENATE

Purpose: The bill requires NOAA to establish a constituent-driven Digital Coast program. The program must provide an online resource that integrates geospatial data, decision-support tools, training, and best practices to address coastal management issues and needs, and provide for the documentation, dissemination, and archiving of the data.

(NOTE: This program currently exists under NOAA to provide data, tools, and training that communities use to manage their coastal resources.)

Co-sponsors (House): Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD-2), Young (R-AK-At Large), Esty (D-CT-5), Crist (D-FL-13), McGovern (D-MA-2), Lowenthal (D-CA-47), Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-23), Clark (D-MA-5), Moore (D-WI-4), Nadler (D-NY-10), Bordallo (D-GU-At Large), Jones (R-NC-3), Carbajal (D-CA-24), Curbelo (R-FL-26), Napolitano (D-CA-32), Mast (R-FL-18), Rush (D-IL-1), Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR-At Large), Jeffries (D-NY-8)

Co-sponsors (Senate): Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Murkowski (R-AK), Sullivan (D-AK), Booker (D-NJ)

Status (House): Introduced in October 2017 and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Ocean. An identical bill passed the Senate on May 25, 2017 and was sent to the House for consideration.

Status (Senate): The bill was introduced in January 2017 and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which ordered the bill to be [reported](#) without amendment favorably. The bill passed the Senate on May 25, 2017 without amendment by unanimous consent. On June 5, 2018, the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held a [hearing](#) to review NOAA's [Digital Coast](#) program.

Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act

(H.R. 3086 in the House; S. 141 in the Senate) *similar, but not identical after markup

Purpose: This bill directs agencies to coordinate interagency research and monitoring activities to better understand space weather events and improve the nation's ability to prepare, avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from their potentially devastating impacts. The bill also requires agencies including NOAA, NASA, and the Department of Defense (DOD), to develop sustainable observing, modeling, and forecasting capabilities.

Co-sponsors (House): Ed Perlmutter (D-CO-7), Jim Bridenstine (R-OK-1), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30), Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6), Ann Kuster (D-NH-2), Mo Brooks (R-AL-5)

Co-sponsors (Senate): Gary Peters (D-MI), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bill Nelson (D-FL)

Status (House): The bill was introduced in the House in June 2017. The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a [markup](#) hearing on July 24 to consider the bill, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent in May 2017. During the House markup, the committee agreed upon two

amendments offered by Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO-7) – one amendment designates the National Space Council as the coordinating force behind federal space weather activities, rather than the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and requires collaboration with the private sector, while the other amendment adds language that emphasizes the need for space weather observation and forecasting for deep space exploration.

Status (Senate): The bill was introduced in January 2017. It was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which [reported](#) favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. The bill passed in the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent on May 2, 2017.

Learn more about these bills and any other current or past legislation at [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), or ask your Geo-CVD Team Leader for additional information.

The Ask: Caucus Summaries

What is a congressional caucus?

A congressional caucus is a group of members of the United States Congress that meets to pursue common legislative objectives. Formally, caucuses are formed as congressional member organizations through the United States House of Representatives and governed under the rules of that chamber.

Congressional Hazards Caucus

(House and Senate)

The hazards caucus provides information and education on preparing for, mitigating against, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters.

This bipartisan, bicameral caucus offers a platform for members of Congress to demonstrate their concern and commitment to reducing the risks and costs associated with natural disasters and enhancing the nation's ability to recover from those events. The caucus' activities are supported by the Hazards Caucus Alliance (HCA), which is a network of professional, scientific, and engineering societies, relief organizations, academic institutions, trade associations, and private companies that share similar interests in reducing the toll – both human and financial – of natural hazards.

Co-chairs: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA-1) (pronounced “del-beh-nay”)

For more information, visit: <http://www.hazardscaucus.org/>.

House Earth & Space Science Caucus

(House ONLY)

The House Earth and Space Science Caucus aims to broaden congressional awareness of the societal, economic, and scientific advancements made possible by the Earth and space sciences.

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives may join this bipartisan coalition of lawmakers who actively support the Earth and space sciences. To raise awareness about the breadth and value of the Earth and space sciences, the caucus hosts briefings or roundtables on current science policy issues with experts from the field, congressional receptions that highlight the valuable Earth and space science research being done in members' districts or at federal agencies nationwide, and sponsors letters or legislation that provide robust federal support for the Earth and space sciences.

Co-chairs: Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA-6), Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO-2)

For more information, visit: <https://sciencepolicy.aqu.org/earthandspacecaucus/>.

Congressional Soils Caucus

(House ONLY)

The purpose of the soils caucus is to educate policymakers and stakeholders about the importance of soils and soil science. The caucus is open to any active member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Congressional Soils Caucus Alliance (CSCA), which involves groups outside Congress, supports the efforts of the caucus and seeks to enhance knowledge and understanding of the role that soil and soil science play in addressing the most pressing issues facing our nation and the world. The CSCA communicates with congressional members and staff through educational briefings on topics selected by caucus members and white papers on key challenges facing agriculture and the environment.

For more information, visit: <https://www.soils.org/science-policy/caucus>.

Congressional Oceans Caucus

(House and Senate)

The oceans caucus is a bipartisan group dedicated to increasing awareness of ocean-related policy issues, designed to increase awareness and find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and coasts.

Supported by the Oceans Caucus Foundation (OCF), a non-profit organization which has assembled a collaboration of public and private sector organizations to educate U.S. and international policymakers, the caucus is designed to increase awareness and find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and coasts. The OCF hosts educational programs on issues of ocean conservation worldwide that are identified in response to recommendations and concerns from their advisory board and network of oceans experts. These include a regular schedule of briefings for high-level staff, concerning topics like establishing a balance between the needs of ecosystems and fishing, tourism, and transportation industries.

Co-chairs: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Sen Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1), Rep. Don Young (R-AK At-large); honorary co-chairs: Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)

For more information, visit: <http://www.ocfoundation.us/>.

Tips for Your Meetings

To get the most out of your visits, please consider these important tips:

- 1. Research your representatives.** Does the Member have specific science priorities? Do they serve on any relevant committees? Researching your representatives before the visits allows you to tailor your talking points to their values and will ultimately lead to a more successful visit.
- 2. Brainstorm your message.** Think of one or two points you would like to get across in your meeting, and back them up with specific examples to support those points, preferably examples that relate specifically to the Member's state or district!
- 3. Never be negative about politics.** Whether or not your representative's political views are the same as your own, every Member of Congress values the opinions of his/her constituents.
- 4. You will most likely meet with a staff member.** Members of Congress must juggle very busy schedules including hearings, votes, meetings, and other time-sensitive matters that spontaneously arise. Therefore, your meetings will mostly likely be with the congressional staff (or "staffers") who handle geoscience-related issues for their office. Although many staffers may not have deep scientific backgrounds, they are familiar with the issues in their district and are required to report back to their boss about the meetings.
- 5. Be on time and be prepared to wait.** Changes in the legislative calendar and office activity mean that Members of Congress and their staff may have to deal with other time-sensitive matters. You should arrive a few minutes early and be patient if there are delays on their end.
- 6. Be clear.** This does not mean "dumb down" your science. It means explain your research in a way that can be easily understood by others not in your field. Listen to questions, and follow up.
- 7. Be concise.** The average length for a typical meeting on the Hill is 15-20 minutes. You will be in groups of 2-6 people for Geo-CVD, so try to make sure everyone gets a chance to contribute!
- 8. Be Honest.** If you do not know the answer to a question from the Member or staff, be honest! Show interest in finding the answer and follow up later.
- 9. Bring business cards.** Business cards are currency on Capitol Hill. You will exchange them at every meeting you attend. Also feel free to bring a short one-pager or pamphlet that describes your research to leave behind after your meetings.
- 10. Wear comfortable shoes.** Seriously, wear comfortable shoes. There will be lots of walking!
- 11. Leave the luggage at the hotel.** There is no place to store luggage on Capitol Hill, so if you don't want to haul your luggage around all day, we suggest you leave it at your hotel.
- 12. Follow up.** Send an email after your meetings to thank the Member and/or relevant staffer for their time. You can offer to serve as a resource in the future and respond to any questions you were unable to answer during the meeting. This is a great way to continue the conversation and build a relationship with an office.

Glossary of Congressional Terms

Definitions abridged from www.Congress.gov and www.TheCapitol.net.

Appropriations Bill: A bill that gives legal authority to spend or obligate money from the Treasury. An appropriations bill grants the money approved by authorization bills, but not necessarily the full amount permissible under the authorization. About two-thirds of all budget authority is considered mandatory and does not require annual appropriations, such as that for Social Security and interest on the federal debt.

Authorization: Legislation that establishes or continues the legal operation of a federal program or agency, either indefinitely or for a specific period of time, or which sanctions a particular type of obligation or expenditure. An authorization normally is a prerequisite for an appropriation or other kind of budget authority.

Briefings: Briefings consist of experts presenting information in a style understandable to a lay audience, organized and hosted by outside groups (not Congress).

Caucus: An informal organization of members of the House or the Senate, or both, that exists to discuss issues of mutual concern and possibly to perform legislative research and policy planning for its members. There are regional, political or ideological, ethnic, and economic-based caucuses.

Committee/Subcommittee: A panel (or subpanel) of Members from the House or Senate tasked with conducting hearings, examining and developing legislation, conducting oversight, and helping manage chamber business and activities. Committee leadership includes the Chair (from the majority party) and Ranking Member (from the minority party).

Committee Staff: Congressional Committees have separate staff from their personal offices, including Professional Staff, Research Analysts, and Counsel.

Congress (i.e., 2-year term): A meeting of the national legislature, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives (approximately two years in duration). The 115th Congress convened on January 3, 2017.

Continuing Resolution (Continuing Appropriation): An appropriations act (typically in the form of a joint resolution) that provides stop-gap funds for federal agencies and programs to continue operations when the regular (or annual) appropriations acts have not been enacted by the beginning of the fiscal year (October 1).

Fiscal Year: The government's annual accounting period, beginning on October 1 and ending on September 30. The fiscal year carries the date of the calendar year in which it ends; for example, FY 2019 begins on October 1, 2018.

Hearings: Committee sessions for taking testimony from witnesses. At hearings on legislation, witnesses usually include specialists, government officials, and/or spokespersons for those affected by the bill. Hearings may also be part of special investigations. The public and press may attend open hearings.

Lame Duck Session: When Congress, including members who will not be returning for the next Congress, meets following the November elections to consider various items of business.

Legislative Personal Staff: Typical Washington, D.C. Member Staff Positions in order of decreasing seniority:

- **Legislative Director (LD):** Advises the Member on all legislative areas and assists in the development of policy positions and legislative initiatives.
- **Legislative Assistant (LA):** Tracks legislation and other developments in assigned issue areas.
- **Legislative Correspondent (LC):** Writes letters in response to constituents, and generally responsible for a few legislative issues.

Omnibus Bill: Legislation that combines the provisions of several disparate bills into a single measure. Examples include an appropriations omnibus that might contain two or more of the twelve annual appropriations bills.

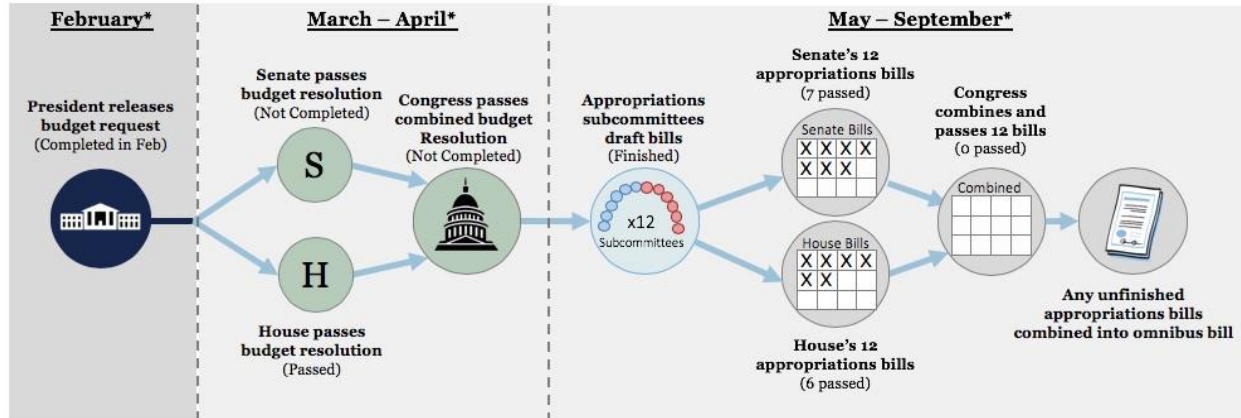
Sequestration: A procedure by which mandatory across-the-board spending cuts to discretionary spending go into effect, if Congress fails to agree on a deficit-reducing budget before a specified date.

U.S. Code: A consolidation and codification of the general and permanent federal statutes of the United States, divided broadly by subject matter into 53 titles. See the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations at www.ecfr.gov.

Veto: A procedure by which the president refuses to approve a bill or joint resolution. After bill is received, a veto must occur within 10 days, excluding Sundays, when Congress is in session; otherwise, it becomes law without the president's signature. The veto can be overridden only by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

Status of FY 2019 Appropriations

*Denotes the pace of the process under "regular order"



The President released his fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget request in February 2018, which is the first step to formally begin the appropriations process. Generally, Congress considers both the President's request and the previous fiscal year enacted spending levels when drafting its appropriations bills for the upcoming year. However, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 made the President's budget in many ways considered "dead on arrival."

A few days before the President submitted his FY 2019 budget request, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The Act raised the discretionary spending caps for both defense and non-defense agencies, including funding for science agencies, in FY 2018 and 2019 and lifted the federal debt ceiling through March 1, 2019.

Since the President's FY 2019 budget request was developed and finalized before Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act, it was released along with a last-minute addendum to account for some of the extra funding allowed by the new budget caps. The addendum restored funding for some science agencies that would have otherwise been slated for deep budget cuts in the President's original request. The final request included flat funding or up to 25 percent cuts for many science agencies compared to FY 2017 enacted spending levels. NASA was the only geoscience-related agency which received increased funds in the President's FY 2019 request.

As part of this budget deal, Congress also passed a fifth continuing resolution (CR) to continue funding the government at FY 2017 levels and extend their deadline to pass a final FY 2018 spending bill by March 23. Congress finally passed a \$1.3 trillion spending bill on March 23, which provided flat funding for the EPA and increased spending for other science agencies by 4-12 percent.

After passing the FY 2018 budget, Congress shifted their focus on advancing the FY 2019 appropriations process. The House Committee on Appropriations released appropriations bills that would decrease

funding for the EPA and NOAA, but increase funding for DOE Office of Science, NASA, NSF, USGS, and USDA R&D. The Senate Committee on Appropriations released its own legislation that would increase funding for DOE Office of Science, NASA, NSF, and USDA R&D, provide flat funding for the USGS and EPA, and decrease NOAA funding.

Before August recess, the House Committee on Appropriations approved all 12 appropriations bills for FY 2019, and the full chamber passed 6 of those appropriations bills in multiple packages – known as “minibuses.” To date, the Senate Committee on Appropriations has also considered all 12 of its spending bills. The Senate passed two of the House minibus packages, which were amended with Senate appropriations bills, including two other appropriations bills: (1) Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and (2) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. The House and Senate must resolve any differences between their versions of the minibus bills, which fund the DOE Office of Science, USGS, EPA, and in the Senate, the USDA. Neither chamber has yet passed legislation to fund NSF, NOAA, and NASA.

Despite progressing with the appropriations process more quickly this year than in recent years, Congress may still not meet their deadline of September 30 to pass a final budget for FY 2019. If Congress does not complete the appropriations process by the deadline, the chambers must again pass a short-term CR to continue funding federal agencies at FY 2018 levels and avoid a government shut-down. While CRs enable federal government operations to continue at funding levels consistent with the previous fiscal year, this procedure results in uncertainty for agency spending plans and does not account for inflation or allow for new initiatives.

Accordingly, September is an important month to advocate for science funding. Geo-CVD provides an opportunity to petition your members of Congress for robust and timely funding of federal science agencies, which strengthens the STEM workforce and supports the nation’s well-being, national security, and economy.

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (in millions)

| Agency | FY18 Enacted | FY19 President Request | FY19 House Bill | FY19 Senate Bill |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| USDA AFRI | \$400 | \$375 (-6%) | \$415 (4%) | \$405 (1%) |
| USDA ARS | \$1,343 | \$1,019 (-24%) | \$1,395 (4%) | \$1301 (-3%) |

Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (in millions)

| Agency | FY18 Enacted | FY19 President Request | FY19 House Bill | FY19 Senate Bill |
|--------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| NASA | \$20,736 | \$19,892 (-4%) | \$21,573 (4%) | \$21,323 (3%) |
| NOAA | \$5,909 | \$4,563 (-23%) | \$5,159 (-13%) | \$5,483 (-7%) |
| NSF | \$7,767 | \$7,472 (-4%) | \$8,175 (5%) | \$8,069 (4%) |

Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies (in millions)

| Agency | FY18 Enacted | FY19 President Request | FY19 House Bill | FY19 Senate Bill |
|-------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| DOE-Science | \$6,260 | \$5,391 (-14%) | \$6,600 (5%) | \$6,650 (6%) |

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (in millions)

| Agency | FY18 Enacted | FY19 President Request | FY19 House Bill | FY19 Senate Bill |
|--------|--------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| USGS | \$1,149 | \$860 (-25%) | \$1,167 (2%) | \$1,149 (0%) |
| EPA | \$8,058 | \$6,192 (-23%) | \$7,958 (-1%) | \$8,058 (0%) |