



ADVANCING EARTH
AND SPACE SCIENCE

13 September 2019

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3808

The Honorable Daniel Webster
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0911

Dear Representatives Cartwright and Webster:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its more than 60,000 members, I am writing to endorse the Preparedness and Risk Management for Extreme Weather Patterns Assuring Resilience and Effectiveness Act of 2019 (“PREPARE Act”) and to thank you for crafting this important legislation.

It is critical that federal, state, and local decisionmakers have the best possible information when it comes to natural disasters that affect American livelihoods. Every year, our society incurs devastating losses, both human and economic, from extreme weather-related hazards. It has been estimated that extreme weather and fire events alone over the last decade have cost the federal government over \$357 billion.¹

This bill takes constructive steps towards improving our nation’s resiliency and infrastructure during severe weather events. AGU believes that we create a more resilient society, where lives are saved and economic losses are minimized, when scientific information is used to inform public policy. That’s why we applaud the bill’s approach of establishing a framework for federal agencies to incorporate the best possible science to produce important tools and products that will enhance extreme weather resilience and planning.

Thank you for recognizing in this bill the importance of science-informed action toward resilient and prepared communities. AGU looks forward to working with you on this critical issue.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine W. McEntee'.

Christine W. McEntee
CEO/Executive Director
American Geophysical Union



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¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, February 2015. *GAO-15-290*. Retrieved from <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/668415.pdf>.