

6 October 2020



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its community of 130,000 in the Earth and space sciences, I am writing to urge you to bring to the House floor for consideration S. 529, the National Landslide Preparedness Act, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on 30 July and currently resides in the House. The House passed H.R. 1261, the companion bill to S.529, on June 4, 2019.

Landslides affect every state and U.S. territory, causing between \$1.6 and \$3.2 billion in damages and 25-50 deaths in the U.S. [each year](#). Moreover, with the Western U.S. still under tremendous threat from wildfires, the [landslide risk](#) in 2020 may prove to be especially grave. Yet, authorization for programming that is critical to locating and identifying potential landslide risks expires at the end of this year—making passage of the National Landslide Preparedness Act vital.

AGU applauds the bill's goals of addressing landslide hazards, increasing preparedness, and reducing the loss of lives, homes, and infrastructure. In particular, AGU supports the development and execution of a national landslides strategy and the creation of publicly accessible maps and tools, as well as an early warning system and emergency response procedures.

Finally, AGU appreciates S.529's commitment to research, especially the development of priorities for identifying, mapping and assessing landslide hazard risks, the authorization of research grants through the U.S. Geological Survey and National Science Foundation, and the establishment of a national database that can aid scientists and others in their work.

AGU urges the House of Representatives to pass S.529, the National Landslide Preparedness Act. This bill will protect lives and safeguard our communities, economy and environment. AGU stands ready to work with you to accomplish its goals. Thank you for your consideration.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy W. Fiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy W. Fiser

CEO/Executive Director  
American Geophysical Union