



ADVANCING EARTH  
AND SPACE SCIENCE

7 November 2019

The Honorable Bill Foster  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Foster and Congresswoman Johnson,

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its more than 60,000 members around the world, I am writing to endorse the Keep STEM Talent Act of 2019 (H.R. 4623) and to thank you for crafting this important bill.

Scientific advancement occurs on a global scale and international collaboration improves scientific inquiry in the U.S. and abroad. AGU's membership is global, and many of its members are international scientists and students who work in the U.S. or collaborate with U.S. citizens. As such, AGU members can attest to the fundamental role that diverse opinions and experiences play in conducting innovative science.

Graduate students, as the future of our scientific enterprise, play a key role in ensuring the success of scientific research, regardless of their nationality. By strengthening the student visa process, the Keep STEM Talent Act will remove potential barriers for talented international students to pursue their STEM graduate education in the United States. In addition, by providing residential status to STEM graduates with a master's degree or higher who have gained employment in a related STEM field, H.R. 4623 will help to retain international talent after students complete their education.

Finally, by promoting the integration of diverse opinions, backgrounds and perspectives into the scientific pursuit of knowledge and discovery, the bill will advance science itself. AGU looks forward to working with you on this critical issue in the future.

With best wishes,

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

Christine W. McEntee  
CEO/Executive Director  
American Geophysical Union