



29 January 2020

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

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kendra Horn  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Babin  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, Chairwoman Horn, and Ranking Member Babin:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its community of more than 110,000 Earth and space scientists, I am writing to endorse H.R. 5666, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2019, and to thank you for crafting this important bill.

As a community dedicated to advancing science for the benefit of humanity, we especially appreciate the inclusion of language that emphasizes the value of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in addressing society's grand challenges. For example, we strongly support the provisions that describe the utility of NASA's Earth Science Mission to a myriad of industries and challenges and the pivotal role that heliophysics plays in understanding and predicting space weather. In addition, we support the goal of better enabling the transition of space weather research into operations.

Additionally, we support the request for a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine workshop on Earth science data analytics and a NASA data science initiative that could enable new interdisciplinary research and the broadest possible use of Earth and space science research. This initiative has the potential to re-energize the science community, lead to new approaches to understanding complex issues, and create new partnerships.

Furthermore, we support Section 1000, which requires the Administrator to conduct an assessment of the loss of observational capability based on the interference limits set at the World Radio Conference 19. Spectrum interference is a critical issue for the Earth science community; accurate and timely weather and climate observations from NASA and NOAA's satellites are critical to our country's national security and economy.

Finally, we strongly support the bill language recognizing the importance of a balanced science portfolio that includes small-, mid-, and large-scale missions and activities. This balance of missions is essential for fostering a robust science program, enabling the next generation of primary investigators, and maximizing federal funding. Likewise, we appreciate the bill's goal of improving NASA's education program, which is vital for developing future STEM leaders.

Thank you for your hard work drafting this legislation, which addresses many of the needs and concerns of the scientific community and helps to ensure NASA's continued leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you as this legislation advances.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lexi Shultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lexi" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shultz".

Lexi Shultz

Vice-President, Public Affairs  
American Geophysical Union