Dear Geo-CVD participant,

Thank you for participating in our Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD) this year from 17-18 September 2013. We hope to make this event as productive, informative, and fun as our previous Geo-CVD events.

Attached you will find 1) briefing documents with this year’s “Ask” to help you prepare for your meetings with representatives, 2) a tentative schedule for the two days, and 3) maps of our training location and Capitol Hill. We highly recommend that you read over these materials to prepare yourself for the event. We will send you additional materials prior to the event.

In order to ensure your Geo-CVD is worthwhile, please keep in mind these important tips:

- **Brainstorm your main message.** Think of some key points you would like to get across in your meeting. For instance, what important science research occurs in your representative’s district? How does geoscience research support public safety? Or, why is federal funding important for innovation and job creation and what can Congress do to help? Remember: keep it simple, and to the point. We will work with you on your message during the training session on 17 September.
- **Do your homework.** Research your Representative and Senators. Check out their websites for more information on the issues and agenda items most important to them. This will help you form your main message during your meeting.
- **The first day of Geo-CVD is a very important training session.** You will also use that time to work on your message, meet the scientists who will be attending visits with you, and network with other participants.
- **Wear comfortable shoes.** There will be lots of walking during Geo-CVD!
- **Bring business cards.** 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. We can help if you have questions about this.

For more tips and information on communicating with legislators, visit the AGI website ([http://www.agiweb.org/gap/events/geocvd/index.html](http://www.agiweb.org/gap/events/geocvd/index.html)) or contact Maeve Boland (mbaoland@agiweb.org) or Abby Seadler (aseadler@agiweb.org) with any questions regarding your Congressional Visits Day.

Furthermore, please contact us with any dietary restrictions you may have, as we will be providing lunch on the first day.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you 17 September at noon for our orientation workshop!

Warm regards,

The AGI Geoscience Policy Staff
2013 Geo-CVD Message

The Ask
Steady Federal Investments for Earth and Space Sciences will:
Provide for Public Health & Safety
Support Economic & National Security

Background on why federal funding for research so important:
Science and technology are universally recognized as key drivers of economic growth, improved human health, and increased quality of life. From fresh drinking water supplies to a secure energy future, the Earth and space sciences support a better understanding of our world and the security and benefits provided to humanity.

Much of the scientific R&D that we rely on to protect public safety in the face of natural and man-made disasters is funded through federal investments. Such investments have led to better hurricane forecasting and tracking, drought prediction, earthquake hazard mapping, and severe weather forecasting.

Economists have estimated more than half of economic growth over the past several decades is due to technological progress.

Federal funding for R&D accounts for less than one-third of total R&D funding in the U.S. and largely goes toward basic research – research that is required to develop the fundamental knowledge base upon which all applied R&D depends.

Federal agencies support nearly 60 percent of research performed at U.S. colleges and universities. Not only does this work help drive discoveries that can lead to game-changing innovations, it also serves to help educate the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Over the past decade, federal R&D funding in the U.S. has remained flat and recently, even decreased. This disturbing trend puts America’s safety and economic vitality at risk.

* Budget in constant 2013 dollars.
** Data from 2014 AAAS R&D Report

Use your own story to communicate the value of science to society!
**Tips for your Meeting**

1. Be on time and be prepared to wait. Changes in the legislative calendar and office activity often mean Members and staff must deal with other things.

2. You must be prepared and succinct. *If you do not know the answer, be honest!* Always commit to finding out the answer and follow up.

3. Explain how science funding affects the Senator’s or Representative’s state or district with a short anecdote or facts about the district. (e.g., how many people work for your company/university and their economic impact)

4. Limit the presentation; let everyone speak to the issue if they want to contribute.

5. Never be negative about politics; do not whine or lecture to Members or staffers; do not imply that R&D funding is or should be an entitlement.

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After the meeting, follow up! Send a letter of thanks to the Member and staffer offering to be a source of information in the future.
2013 Geoscience Congressional Visits Day Agenda

Tuesday, 17 September

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Geo-CVD Orientation Program at APLU
1307 New York Ave, NW (1st Floor Conference Room)

12:00-12:20 – Welcome and Introductions (Grab a lunch when you arrive)
12:20-12:30 – Overview of CVD
12:30-1:00 – Overview of Congress
1:00-1:30 – Overview of Budget and Message
1:30-1:45 – BREAK
1:45-2:45 – How to Conduct a Visit and Practice of Message
2:45-3:45 – Practice as small groups with staff
3:45-4:00 – BREAK
4:00-4:40 – Congressional Panel Q&A Session
4:40-4:45 – Wrap-up/directions to reception

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  USGS Coalition Reception and Exhibition
Rayburn Foyer
Rayburn House Office Building
Independence Ave. & S. Capitol St., SW

Wednesday, 18 September

9:00 am – 5:00 pm  Congressional Visits with Members, Staff, and Committees
Capitol Hill
Location of Workshop:

APLU Headquarters,
1307 New York Ave NW, Suite 400
Washington DC 20005

Workshop is in first floor conference room, across from security desk in lobby

Take Blue or Orange line to McPherson Square Metro
-or-
Take Red line to Metro Center
Key
1. Rayburn House Office Building;
2. Longworth House Office Building;
3. Cannon House Office Building;
4. Capitol South Metro Station;
5. Russell Senate Office Building;
6. Dirksen Senate Office Building;
7. Hart Senate Office Building;
8. Union Station Metro Station
Additional Resources

- House of Representatives Website: www.house.gov
- Senate Website: www.senate.gov
- Legislation: http://thomas.loc.gov

Participating Organization Websites

- American Geophysical Union’s Science Policy Page: http://www.agu.org/sci_pol/
- American Meteorological Society’s Policy Program Page: https://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/
- Geological Society of America’s Public Policy Page: http://www.geosociety.org/geopolicy/
- National Ground Water Association’s Advocacy Page: http://www.ngwa.org/Advocacy-Awareness/Pages/default.aspx
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Government Relations Page: http://president.ucar.edu/government-relations