



April 21, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science,
and Transportation Committee
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson,

The undersigned organizations write to express deep concerns about the impact of Administration regulations and legislative initiatives related to government travel on the science and engineering enterprise and the pace of innovation. Collectively, our organizations and institutions represent and support millions of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians—including many who work for the federal government directly or as contractors—across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

A recent [GAO report](#) on the impact of federal conference and travel policies on science and technology—and [subsequent reports](#) in *The Washington Post*—has highlighted the stark reduction in government employee participation in conferences; the risks to U.S. leadership in science and engineering; and the increased administrative burden of these policies. We urge you to work with federal agencies and the scientific community to ensure that any further legislative action does not place additional red tape and administrative burdens on the U.S. science and engineering enterprise.

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We stand ready to work with you and officials throughout the government to find a solution that ensures transparency and accountability in federal spending without impacting scientific progress and innovation.

Sincerely,

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American Society for Civil Engineers
The American Society of Dermatopathology
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SPIE
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University of Missouri System
University of Oregon
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
The Wildlife Society
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

CC: The Honorable Roger Wicker
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Marco Rubio
The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
The Honorable Dean Heller

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The Honorable Ted Cruz
The Honorable Deb Fischer
The Honorable Daniel Sullivan
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Ron Johnson
The Honorable Cory Gardner
The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Claire McCaskill
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Brian Schatz
The Honorable Edward Markey
The Honorable Cory Booker
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Joe Manchin
The Honorable Gary Peters



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey,

The undersigned organizations write to express deep concerns about the impact of Administration regulations and legislative initiatives related to government travel on the science and engineering enterprise and the pace of innovation. Collectively, our organizations and institutions represent and support millions of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians—including many who work for the federal government directly or as contractors—across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

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The Wildlife Society
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

CC: The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Mike Simpson
The Honorable John A. Culberson

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The Honorable Ander M. Crenshaw
The Honorable John R. Carter
The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable Tom J. Cole
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
The Honorable Charlie W. Dent
The Honorable Tom Graves
The Honorable Kevin W. Yoder
The Honorable Steve Womack
The Honorable Jeff L. Fortenberry
The Honorable Tom J. Rooney
The Honorable Chuck J. Fleischmann
The Honorable Jaime L. Herrera Beutler
The Honorable Dave P. Joyce
The Honorable David G. Valadao
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The Honorable Martha Roby
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The Honorable Chris D. Stewart
The Honorable Scott Rigell
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The Honorable David E. Young
The Honorable Evan H. Jenkins
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The Honorable Mike Honda
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The Honorable Steve J. Israel
The Honorable Tim J. Ryan
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
The Honorable Henry R. Cuellar
The Honorable Chellie M. Pingree
The Honorable Mike Quigley
The Honorable Derek Kilmer



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Senate Homeland Security and
Government Affairs Committee
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security
and Government Affairs Committee
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper,

The undersigned organizations write to express deep concerns about the impact of Administration regulations and legislative initiatives related to government travel on the science and engineering enterprise and the pace of innovation. Collectively, our organizations and institutions represent and support millions of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians—including many who work for the federal government directly or as contractors—across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

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CC: The Honorable John McCain
The Honorable Rob Portman
The Honorable Rand Paul
The Honorable James Lankford
The Honorable Mike Enzi

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The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
The Honorable Joni Ernst
The Honorable Benjamin Sasse
The Honorable Claire McCaskill
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
The Honorable Cory Booker
The Honorable Gary Peters



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, House Science, Space, and
Technology Committee
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and
Technology Committee
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

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CC: The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner
The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
The Honorable Randy Neugebauer
The Honorable Michael T. McCaul

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The Honorable Steven M. Palazzo
The Honorable Mo Brooks
The Honorable Randy M. Hultgren
The Honorable Bill Posey
The Honorable Thomas H. Massie
The Honorable Jim F. Bridenstine
The Honorable Randy Weber
The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable John Moolenaar
The Honorable Steve Knight
The Honorable Brian Babin
The Honorable Bruce Westerman
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The Honorable Dan Newhouse
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The Honorable Ami Bera
The Honorable Elizabeth H. Esty
The Honorable Marc A. Veasey
The Honorable Katherine M. Clark
The Honorable Don Beyer
The Honorable Ed G. Perlmutter
The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
The Honorable Bill Foster



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Committee
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Mikulski,

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American Phytopathological Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society for Civil Engineers
The American Society of Dermatopathology
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Association for the Advancement of Science
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Tel: 202 326 6600 Fax: 202 289 4950
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American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Thoracic Society
American Veterinary Medical Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Aquatic Plant Management Society
ASME
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association for Molecular Pathology
Association for Psychological Science
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
AVS: Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
Battelle
Biophysical Society
Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies
Cognitive Science Society
Computing Research Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium of Universities for Global Health
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crop Science Society of America
Ecological Society of America
Endocrine Society
Entomological Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Genetics Society of America
Geological Society of America
Global Health Council
Health Physics Society

HIV Medicine Association
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
IEEE-USA
Industrial Research Institute
Infectious Diseases Society of America Center for Global Health Policy
International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium
IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries
Materials Research Society
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Disease Research Interchange
National Ground Water Association
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeastern Weed Science Society
The Optical Society
Ornithological Council
Pediatric Policy Council
Poultry Science Association
The Psychonomic Society
Research!America
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Society for Conservation Biology
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Women's Health Research
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Weed Science Society
SPIE
University of California System
University of Missouri System
University of Oregon
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
The Wildlife Society
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

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The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Mark Kirk
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable John Hoeven
The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Shelley Capito
The Honorable Bill Cassidy
The Honorable James Lankford
The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Christopher Coons
The Honorable Brian Schatz
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Chris Murphy