

EMAIL TO SELECTED HOUSE/SENATE APPROPRIATIONS STAFF

24 Nov. 2014

I'm writing to follow up on AGU's recent discussion with appropriations staff about excluding scientific and engineering conferences from the restrictions on international conference attendance in the CJS title of the draft FY15 omnibus (Sec. 526 of HR 3547 and 4660). The undersigned (and CCed) organizations are very happy to see that this is something the committee will seriously consider, as scientific and engineering conference participation by government employees and contractors is vitally important to maintaining US leadership in discovery and innovation.

We believe this exemption could be accomplished by including a single clause exempting conferences that are "science or engineering focused in nature or scope" alongside the current exemptive language for "law enforcement training or operational conference[s]..." in Sec. 526. A similar exemption is included in section 526(b) of the draft Senate LHHS Appropriations Act for FY 2015.

Thanks for your consideration,

Nick Saab,
Public Affairs Specialist
American Geophysical Union
[+1.202.777.7506](tel:+12027777506)
nsaab@agu.org
www.agu.org

on behalf of:

American Anthropological Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Geophysical Union
American Mathematical Society
American Psychological Association

American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association for the Sciences of Limnology & Oceanography
Association of American Universities
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy
Biophysical Society
Computing Research Association
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Crop Science Society of America
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Health Physics Society
IEEE-USA
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Ground Water Association
Natural Science Collections Alliance
The Optical Society
Research!America
Society for Organic Petrology
Soil Science Society of America
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics