



ADVANCING EARTH  
AND SPACE SCIENCE

22 August 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4330

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3603

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its 60,000 Earth and space scientist members, I am writing to endorse the STEM Opportunities Act of 2019 and applaud your leadership through its passage through the committee.

AGU affirms the importance of fostering and supporting a STEM workforce that is representative of the diversity of our nation- for both benefit of the individuals who work to advance the scientific enterprise and the success of the enterprise itself. A range of perspectives and ideas strengthens science- but this diversity requires a commitment to recognizing and addressing the cultural and institutional barriers that women, minorities, and other groups underrepresented in science face that prevent them from remaining and advancing in their fields.

This bill would provide much needed resources for collecting survey data to understand the current demographics of the STEM pipeline and workforce- a critical step to inform how we can create an equitable environment for the future. The bill also provides resources for training to reduce implicit bias at federal science agencies and grantee institutions and establishes best practices to reduce barriers for groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields, ensuring the future of scientific advancement includes everyone who wants to participate.

AGU commends your efforts and looks forward to working with you to address this critical issue.

With best wishes,

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

Christine W. McEntee  
CEO/Executive Director  
American Geophysical Union