

November 22, 2019

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis through the Request for Information. On behalf of scientific societies representing hundreds of thousands of members across disciplines, we are writing to express support for the many contributions that federal agencies make to advancing the understanding and communicating of the risks of climate change and to suggest ways to build upon these efforts to effectively meet future challenges.

Increased investment in climate change research and data collection are necessary to ensure that the United States continues to rely upon the best available science for decision making. From Earth observations from space to carbon in our soils, measurements at a range of scales are needed to understand the effects of climate change on our planet. Fully funding agency programs across the federal government brings to bear the full breadth of expertise of the different agencies, including basic research that advances our understanding of the Earth system, full scientific assessments of the state of climate change, and science that supports policy decisions.

Public and stakeholder engagement is critical to inform assessment needs and must also include robust dissemination of information in a way that can be incorporated into local planning and choices. To that end, research on the causes and impacts of climate change should be augmented with additional research into methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including research to assess the benefits, risks, and potential for carbon dioxide removal and sequestration, as well as negative emissions technologies.

National Climate Assessments have been a vital tool to enable effective planning across local, state, and federal governments. We encourage more interdisciplinary integration of research in these assessments, particularly with the social, behavioral, economic, and biological sciences. Exploring connections between climate change and the loss of biodiversity and genetic diversity aids understanding implications for species conservation, human health, and agriculture.

Climate models and analysis should cover a full range of scenarios and time scales. Products that convey the effects of climate change and data at local and regional scales across sectors will be vital to local planners' efforts to adapt, along with federal programs to bring this knowledge directly to stakeholders, such as the Climate Adaptation Science Centers and cooperative institutes.

Climate change does not affect the United States in a vacuum. Supporting U.S. scientists to participate in international assessments is necessary to fully engage the international community's expertise to understand and address climate change.

Please feel free to contact us if you have additional questions or our members can provide specific expertise. Thank you for your consideration.

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Chemical Society

American Geophysical Union

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Psychological Association

American Society of Agronomy

American Statistical Association

Crop Science Society of America

Ecological Society of America

Geological Society of America

Soil Science Society of America