Scientists and Science Policy: Shrinking the Gap

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Motivation

- Sonoma State 2012-2016
- SPS Chapter VP from Spring 2015 - Fall 2015
- SPS Associate Zone 18 Councilor - 2015-2016
- Intern for House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Experience

- Hearing material
- Developed reports
- Gained perspective
- Took down a forest
Addressing Causes of the Disparity

1. The language barrier
2. There is a lack of scientists in Congress
3. Science is a vast field of study
# The Language Barrier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theory</th>
<th>Unproven idea.</th>
<th>Explanation of an aspect of the natural world backed by extensive testing.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncertainty</td>
<td>Something doubtful or unknown.</td>
<td>A situation which involves imperfect information and/or unknown information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>A rule or restriction that society must follow.</td>
<td>Description of some aspect of the universe that is shown to always hold true under the same conditions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
114th Congress By Degree

- Scientists: 4
- Engineers: 8
- Physicians: 18
- Lawyers: 213
- Other/None: 292

- 0.75%
- 1.50%
- 3.35%
- 54.60%
- 39.80%
# Science Committee Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBCOMMITTEE</th>
<th>MAJORITY</th>
<th>MINORITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENERGY</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPACE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Science Subfields

- Physical: 71
- Life: 36
- Interdisciplinary: 32
- Applied*: 28
- Social*: 15
- Philosophy*: 10
- Formal: 5

* These fields have representation in Congress currently
The Scientist’s Responsibility

• Educate the Public

• Maintain an open dialogue with policy makers

• Do Not Give Up
Acknowledgements

John Mather
AIP
National SPS
House Minority Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology