THE POLITICS OF SCIENCE
Hearings ● Markups ● Roundtables

- Gather information
- Learn from experts in the field
- Investigate oversight issues
- Reexamine existing laws
Hearings ● Markups ● Roundtables

Bill is introduced

Bill is referred to House committee

Bill is debated and amended in committee

Committee passes bill

Bill is signed into law by president

Bill is debated and amended in Senate

Bill is referred to Senate

House passes bill
COMMITTEE DUTIES

Hearings ● Markups ● Roundtables

- Unofficial committee events
  - Can be led by Ranking Member
  - Cover topics not examined by full committee
- Informal format
- Audience questions permitted
WHAT DID I DO?

- Put together hearing binders
- Perform background research
- Prepare materials for hearings and legislation
- Document committee hearings
- Attend and summarize other relevant hearings
- Answer phone calls
- Meet as many people as possible!
WHAT DID I DO?
WHO KNOWS THE SCIENCE?

- Members of Congress
- Congressional staff
- Witnesses
- Panelists
  - Roundtables
  - Briefings
- Guests at informational events
  - Cybersecurity fair
  - NASA technology day

Congress by Profession

- Health professions (28)
- Career scientists (3)
- Engineers (8)
- Other
WHAT CAN SCIENTISTS DO BETTER?

- Interact directly with Congress
- Make research more accessible
  - Publish frequently
  - Include the press where possible
- Avoid jargon at all costs
- Demonstrate the importance of the subject
  - Economy
  - National security
  - Prestige
- Engage the public
MANY THANKS

- Dr. John Mather
- AIP and SPS, especially Brad, James, and Jen
- Cassie Anderson
- Committee staff
- SPS interns
U.S. Congress

Senate

House of Representatives

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Other committees

Subcommittee on Environment
Subcommittee on Research & Tech
Subcommittee on Space
Subcommittee on Energy
Subcommittee on Oversight
HEARINGS

- **STEM and Computer Science Education**: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce
- Examining **Advances in Biofuels**: Balancing Federal Research and Market Innovation
- **Energy Innovation**: Letting Technology Lead
- **Planetary Flagship Missions**: Mars Rover 2020 and Europa Clipper
- **U.S. Fire Administration and Fire Grant Programs Reauthorization**: Examining Effectiveness and Priorities
- **In-Space Propulsion**: Strategic Choices and Options
- **Material Science**: Building the Future
- Leading the Way: Examining Advances in Environmental Technologies
- Bolstering the Government’s Cybersecurity: *Lessons Learned from WannaCry*
- An Overview of the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budget** for Fiscal Year 2018
MARKUPS

- H.R. 2763, the “Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act of 2017”
- H.R. 2809, the “American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017”