Physics Meets Policy: A Summer on Capitol Hill

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OVERVIEW

Working with the Committee

My role in the office

Expectations

Lessons Learned
Intro to the Committee

Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
WORKING IN THE BACKGROUND

Environment

Energy

Oversight

Space

Research & Technology
The Legislative Process

1. Legislation is Introduced
2. Committee Action
4. Floor Action
5. Reviewed by President
6. The Bill Becomes a Law
Life in the Committee Office

• Hearings
  – Provide Members with advice from witnesses to make informed decisions

• Markups
  – discussion from Committee Members on submitted Bills
  – Committee vote to send Bills to the Floor

• Legislation
  – Draft bills on scientific issues
Preparing for a Hearing

- Research the topic, compile a background document - Memo
- Provide opening statements
- Construct Member questions
- Assemble Member binders
- Prepare Hearing Dais
- Photograph hearing
- Review and edit hearing transcript
Expect the Unexpected

• I had to jump in immediately
  My first week was one of my busiest
• Jargon, names, and processes
• Writing skills put to the test every day
• Listen and learn
Some Takeaways

• Get to know the rest of the staff
  – Take initiative

• Keep to a timeline

• Participate as much as possible in Hill and non-Hill events and network

• Physicists have an important role to play
Thank You

Dr. John Mather
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The House SST Committee
The SPS Team
The SPS Interns