

Committee: Government Affairs

Date/Time: August 23, 3:00 pm Eastern

Participants: Loucas Tsakalacos, Jeffery Aguiar, Michael Bozlar, Josh Caldwell, Angela Cleri, Linda Olafsen, Dio Placencia, Christopher Schuck, Steven Smith, Damon Dozier, Natalie Larocco

Unable to participate: Mayra Castro, Alex Chortos, Babu Chalamala, Daniel Becerra, Jen Nekuda Malik, Jennifer DiStefano, Boris Dyatkin, Elias Garratt, William Hammetter, Sean Hearne, Sean Langan, Nick Moroni, Juan Claudio Nino, Suyog Padgaonkar, Dave Parrillo, Erin Ratcliff, Clarissa May Towle, Kenon Song, Colleen Scott, David Steuerman, Jeremy Ward, Stan Wong,

Next call	September 27, 3:00 pm East	
Responsibility	Action Items	Due
Damon		
	Contact Loucas and Damon with ideas for CVD and Federal Agency Summit topics	
Members	Contact Damon for the funding authorization breakdown	
Paula	Poll GAC members regarding onsite attendance at F22	

AGENDA

Washington Update
CVD
Federal Agency Summit

GAC Chair Loucas Tsakalacos opened the meeting. New members Angela Cleri and Michael Bozlar were welcomed.

Washington Update

MRS has been working heavily on semiconductor issues for the past 18 months. Supply chain delays make this a national security issue. Congress has been called upon to make a large investment into semiconductors.

The recently passed CHIPS act would allocate \$52 billion for domestic semiconductor production and create tax credits for new FABS in the US, making this a really big win in infrastructure building. GAC representatives discussed this with the Capitol Hill staff and had an extended meeting with the House Committee staff. This is a win for MRS.

Should some parts of the CHIPS Act be of more interest to GAC than others?

Damon expressed concern for ramping up the new NSF directorate, and the Office of Science. Some of the monies going to NSF and DOE are for the development of new technologies that are in between basic and applied research. Damon expects that the agencies will set out priorities in a White House memo.

Damon is working with *MRS Bulletin* editor Judy Meiksin on articles for *Materials 360* and the *MRS Bulletin*, along with notes about GAC activities.

Funding has also been authorized for AI, biotech, advanced energy efficiency, high-performance computing; some funds will go to the DOE Office of Science, to NSF, and to federal agencies. **Contact Damon for the breakdown of funding authorizations.** This also represents a win for MRS' advocacy efforts.

Congress gives the permission to fund these areas, but the appropriation levels have not yet been determined. At this point, the levels do not reflect what was put forward in the CHIPS Act.

The House, having passed 6 of 12 appropriations bills, will likely pass the rest before the end of the fiscal year on September 30. The Senate has not passed any yet, nor have the bills passed the committees or subcommittees. Finished action on appropriations is unlikely to happen until the lame duck session. This is not new; for the last 9 years or so, appropriations have not been passed on time.

Bills passed in the House do include the funding levels for federal agencies of MRS interest. The levels increased but do not reflect the existing need of the federal agencies.

In response to a question, Damon explained that although the CHIPS passage was bipartisan, a lot of negotiating had to take place first in order to win Republican votes in the Senate. The CHIPS Act was basically Democratic legislation in the House.

Working Groups Update

Policy Outreach Working Group

The Policy Outreach Working Group has decided that CVD activities will be conducted closer to the time when Congress will be making these funding decisions in mid-October.

While all issues are not yet fleshed out, GAC can consider what we regard as important. We're still waiting for the quantum implementation initiative.

Policy Outreach Working Group Chair Josh Caldwell elaborated on the mid- to late October target date for CVD.

CVD will be virtual because Congress is behind other institutions in opening up due to COVID. November is targeted for the next Federal Agency Summit. The Working Group is reaching out for potential topics.

How to get materials investments under the CHIPS Act? Is this a topic to promote?

Leadership from TMS, ACerS, and other materials-centric societies will be invited; this is in response to the federal agencies' request to bring in more partners.

The Federal Agency Summit brings in program managers and high-level leaders to participate in an off-the-record meeting in a collaborative environment. This has been taking place for 10 years; it's very well received and it's part of the MRS brand.

Topics for the Materials Voice letters may include ensuring that scientists have a safe place in which to conduct their research.

Grassroots Advocacy Working Group

The Board of Directors has asked the Working Group to develop another white paper, this one on supply chain issues. Board Secretary Dawnielle Farrar-Gaines, Boris Dyatkin, Loucas, and Damon will take part in the conversation. The Board hasn't yet had the opportunity to get an update of all that GAC has done, but is happy with the work done thus far.

Regarding the white paper, should this be connected to the CHIPS Act?

Loucas explained that this topic came, in part, from concerns voiced by Dawnielle on the semiconductor supply matter but expanded more broadly into how the national labs and universities can participate. GAC needs to clarify with Dawnielle what the scope of the white paper is to be.

Jeffery Aguiar and Damon referred to the past report that MRS did, along with APS and ACS, on rare earth elements and the helium shortage. This needs to be added to the conversation.

Anyone with ideas on topics for the Federal Agency Summit and CVD can email Loucas and Damon with suggestions.

Invitations will be sent in September to public policy events. GAC is finalizing the agenda.

F22

Paula will send out a poll to see how many GAC members are going to attend F22 in person. If there are enough attending onsite, GAC can have an onsite meeting. Damon will report on the poll at the September meeting.

Dio Placencia has been traveling and unable to participate in recent meetings. He's able to help now as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.