

Committee **Full Government Affairs Committee (GAC)**

Date/Time **Tuesday, 27 July 2021 / 3:00 pm eastern**

Loucas Tsakalacos, Alex Chortos, Damon Dozier, Daniel Becerra, Boris Dyatkin, Josh Caldwell, Elias Garrat, Sean Langan, Jen Nekuda Malik, Juan Claudio Nino, Linda Olafsen, Suyog Padgaonkar, Dio Placencia, Chris Schuck, Colleen Scott, Cathy Tway, Kris Uher (recording secretary)

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| Participants | | |
| Next call | August 24, 3pm ET | |
| Responsibility | Action Items | Due |
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Welcome

Damon opened the call and noted today's meeting will cover the Washington DC update only.

Washington DC Update

Bi-partisan talks continue on the roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. There is a lack of agreement on how much money should be appropriated for transit funding. There is also a concern that national lab infrastructure has not been addressed in other budgets and therefore should be included. All funding bills start in the House and the Senate has not begun with their bills. Developments on the bills can be tracked here: <https://www.congress.gov/help/appropriations-and-budget>. Damon reminded the committee that any vote will have to take place by August 1 since there is an August recess.

Over the past weeks, the House has made progress on appropriation bills at the subcommittee level and are before the Rules Committee now to consider what floor actions can take place. There may be amendments attached to funding bills that deal with disease management and care due to COVID-19. NSF and others have allocated COVID-19 related funding.

The NSF funding bill gives a top line number and is not broken down to the directorate level. Increases in spending are going to AI, quantum, cyber security, advance manufacturing, and infrastructure. Increases of \$1.27B in Education and Human Resources is important because MRS supports diversity in STEM. Energy and water development funding provides \$3.8B for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) focused on clean energy technologies. \$600M for ARPA-E to support high-potential, high-impact new energy technologies. This is an increase of \$170M and is a win for GAC advocacy efforts. \$7.32B for the Office of Science – (moderate increase of \$200M) will fund basic science research in physics, biology, chemistry and other science disciplines.

Fall Meeting

The 2021 MRS Fall Meeting was announced as a hybrid meeting. The first week of the meeting (November 29 – December 2) will be in-person, with some events live-streamed, followed by virtual programming during the following week (December 6 – 8).

At the August meeting there will be discussion about Research Funding Opportunity sessions and to what degree they will be held in person for federal employees that may be onsite. Materials Voice will also be discussed as this works better in person.