

Committee: Government Affairs

May 25, 2023, 1 pm Eastern

Participating: Loucas Tsakalacos, Josh Caldwell, Dan Becerra, Michael Bozlar, Babu Chalamala, Angela Cleri, Bill Hammetter, Bishnu Khanal, Linda Olafsen, Dio Placencia, Steve Smith, Glenn Ruskin, Todd Osman

GAC Chair Loucas Tsakalacos opened the call and thanked everyone for attending.

Washington Update-Glenn Ruskin

Glenn provided an update on the ongoing debt ceiling situation. The amount of the budget that's in contention is the 16% non-defense discretionary budget. This includes funding for the federal agencies.

CVD

CVD is the culmination of activities that GAC does throughout the year, getting the message out to Congress to advocate for MRS membership

Until the debt ceiling and budget issues are settled, GAC can't plan on other items such as the federal agency summits.

Meetings

The GAC representatives met with the staffs of 18 senators, 10 representatives, and the HSST Committee, and in some cases, the senator/representative as well. .

Follow-ups

Rep. Pete Sessions seeks MRS input on an optical topic.

CVD attendees thanked the Congressional members and staff for taking the time to meet with them.

Glenn reported that during the CVD visits, the participants raised awareness of the benefits that come from funding science, and the impact on the economy and national security.

The outcome of the CVD event was supportive. The participants noticed a lot more sightings of senators and representatives. Sen. Marcia Blackburn is a fiscal conservative who recommends keeping the science funding the same because it's aligned with a strong return on investment.

A Republican staff member said they don't anticipate any major science funding initiatives except for existing departments. The priority is to fund Quantum, AI, and the CHIPS and Science Act.

What to change for the Fall CVD Event?

- Add phone numbers to spreadsheet
- Follow the matrix formula of switching partners or maintain dedicated cohorts?

GAC Meeting Schedules

This is still in progress as GAC considers options for a changing format and restructuring of Grassroots Advocacy.

Collaborations

Electrochemical Society

The ECS has reached out to MRS for guidance on doing advocacy. This will be the 7th society that MRS can

partner with for advocacy. There's a potential to amplify the voice if MRS and ECS join forces for CVD. Todd seeks input from Loucas and Josh on this decision.

This information is to be shared among GAC members only.

ACS

The Senate Science Committee is taking the lead on space. During the second half of 2023, MRS will draft a briefing on space materials. MRS will provide one or two speakers from MRS membership. This will rejuvenate the MRS relationship with ACS. The ACS *Science and the Congress* program has run for a couple of decades. The briefings are for educational purposes rather than advocacy.

The GAC meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.