

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Charter

TO: Members, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
FROM: Majority Staff, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
DATE: April 26, 2017
SUBJECT: Full Committee Hearing: “Advances in the Search for Life”

On Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will hold a hearing titled, “Advances in the Search for Life.”

Hearing Purpose

The NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017 established “The search for life’s origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the universe,” as one of the national space program’s objectives. The hearing will survey recent breakthroughs in a variety of fields that contribute to astrobiology, such as the continued discovery of exoplanets and research efforts to understand life’s origin on Earth and in the lab.

Witnesses

- **Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen**, Associate Administrator, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- **Dr. Adam Burgasser**, Professor of Physics, University of California, San Diego and UCSD Center for Astrophysics and Space Science; Fulbright Scholar
- **Dr. James Kasting**, Chair, Planning Committee, Workshop on the Search for Life Across Space and Time, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University
- **Dr. Seth Shostak**, Senior Astronomer, SETI Institute

Staff Contact

For questions related to the hearing, please contact Mr. Tom Hammond, Staff Director, Space Subcommittee, Dr. Michael Mineiro, Professional Staff Member, Space Subcommittee, or Ms. Sara Ratliff, Policy Assistant, Space Subcommittee, at 202-225-6371.