



Organization of Agreement States

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February 2, 2007

To the Agreement State Program Directors:

As Past-Chair of the Organization of Agreement States (OAS), as a member of the Health Physics Society's (HPS) Government Section, and as an incoming Board Member to HPS, I asked the OAS Board if I might share this message with you, and the OAS Board graciously agreed. I encourage you to share the message with your entire professional staff.

As you are all acutely aware, Agreement State professional staff are part of a small, but vital community of professionals whose daily work revolves around issues of radiation safety and regulatory compliance. We have an expertise and perspective that is unique among our fellow health physicists relating to issues involving the safe and legal use of radioactive materials. In order to share this expertise, effectively communicate our unique perspective, and impact the future of radiation safety and related regulation, we must look for ways to engage ourselves in the larger health physics community.

One way is to consider membership in the Health Physics Society (HPS), and, more specifically, to join the **HPS Government Section**. In the past few years, OAS has worked very proactively with HPS, leading to the specific recognition of OAS by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I believe that we need to continue this positive trend of recognition, but in order to do that, OAS members must become active in the other professional societies that share our interests and concerns.

OAS is a relatively small organization, but by bringing our expertise and perspective to the other national organizations that share our interests, including the HPS, the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the American Nuclear Society, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, the American Association of Medical Physicists, and other related organizations, we have a better chance to share in shaping the future of radiation safety and regulation.

The OAS does not have a mechanism for subsidizing membership fees for these other organizations, but I encourage you, as individuals, to look into memberships in these organizations as a way to expand your own personal and professional horizons, and to bring greater recognition to our organization that serves over 80% of the regulated medical, academic and industrial radioactive materials community in the nation.

In the past few years, the membership in the HPS Government Section has been modest, at best. An influx of State Government staff has the potential to revitalize the section, and through the wide variety of contacts we collectively make with other federal, state and local agencies, we have the potential to reach out and encourage a large influx of new, untapped talent.

Information on joining HPS can be found at:

<http://hps.org/aboutthesociety/howtojoin.html>

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin

Information on the HPS Government Section can be found at:

<https://hps.org/membersonly/sections/govt/>

If you are particularly motivated, I encourage you to contact me about possibly running for an officer of the Government Section.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Original Sent by Email

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