



**Science
Societies**

Former member, NIFA scientist runs for Congress

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Megan O'Rourke is running for Congress in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District. She is a former ASA member and climate scientist with USDA-NIFA.

Scientists play a critical role in [advocating for science](#) and science funding. The Societies' have always sought to help their members engage with policymakers and their staff through numerous efforts, including the annual [Congressional Visits Day](#). One former ASA member has decided to take her advocacy to the next level by running for Congress.

Megan O'Rourke, a climate scientist who worked for the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for the last five years before opting for the deferred resignation program, announced her candidacy for Congress earlier this month for New Jersey's 7th Congressional District. Prior to working for NIFA, she was an associate professor at Virginia Tech. O'Rourke has attended CANVAS several times, including last year where she [presented](#).

Science [recently interviewed](#) O'Rourke about her candidacy.

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