

July 15, 2019

Dear U.S. Senators and Representatives,

As organizations working to promote and protect science for the public good, we urge you to co-sponsor and champion the Scientific Integrity Act, which would safeguard the rights of scientists working at federal agencies and ensure the public can benefit from their work. We support requiring agencies that fund, conduct, or oversee scientific research to develop strong scientific integrity policies that include enforcement mechanisms.

Our various organizations work to advance science, public health, the environment, civil rights, reproductive health, worker safety, government oversight, and whistleblower protections. All of us depend on high quality federal scientific research and the hard work of federal scientists to protect our health, safety, economy and environment. Unfortunately, as the report *Protecting Science at Federal Agencies: How Congress Can Help* describes, over the past two years, we have seen the impact of federal policies and political appointees that suppress, mischaracterize, and ignore evidence on topics from contraception to climate change.

S. 775/H.R. 1709, the Scientific Integrity Act of 2019 contains provisions that would address many of these attacks on science. It would prohibit political appointees from altering or suppressing scientific findings and give scientists final review over how agencies portray their research. It also would ensure that federal agencies designate scientific integrity officers and provide federal employees with ethics training to help prevent misconduct.

Another important component of the Scientific Integrity Act is its codification of scientists' right to disseminate their work without interference. It would enable scientists to talk about their research - with reporters, in scientific journals, and at scientific conferences as well as directly with members of the public. Such communication is essential both for public understanding and for federal scientists' ability to share their insights for better oversight and accountability of agency decisions.

Our nation relies on scientific integrity to maintain the role of best available science in policymaking. This research is critical to improving air and water quality, protecting workers, safeguarding public health and safety, advancing reproductive health, defending civil rights, preserving biodiversity, and responding to threats posed by diseases and extreme weather events. We urge you to sign on as co-sponsors of S. 775 or H.R. 1709 to take this important step toward ensuring that our government uses science and evidence to best protect our public health and well-being.

Sincerely,

A Better Balance: The Work & Family Legal Center
Advocates for Science at Indiana University
American Bird Conservancy
American Public Health Association
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Inquiry
Center for Progressive Reform
Center for Reproductive Rights
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Climate Science Legal Defense Fund

Common Cause
Cumberland Countians for EcoJustice
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Empire State Consumer Project
Endangered Species Coalition
Equity Forward
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Government Accountability Project
Government Information Watch
Green Faith
Green Latinos
Greenpeace USA
International Union, United Automobile Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
March for Science
National Center for Health Research
National Employment Law Project
National Federation of Federal Employees
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Parks Conservation Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Wildlife Federation
National Women's Health Network
Native Plant Society of the United States
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ
New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management
New Jersey Education Association
New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy
Ocean Conservancy
Open the Government
oSTEM
People for the American Way
Project on Government Oversight
Public Citizen
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Rutgers AAUP-AFT
Save the Manatee Club
Sciencecorps
Service Employees International Union
Society for Conservation Biology
Society for the Advance of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science
Sunlight Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association
WildEarth Guardians
Wildlands Network
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health