

A Declaration of Integrity

To

U.S. Congress & the
scientific community

Date

June 26, 2024

From

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The United States of America was founded on the principles embodied in Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Gettysburg Address – in which he stated that democratic government must be “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Implicit in this is that government must be *accountable* to the people it serves. When the laws of the country don't ensure that this standard is met, the laws must be changed or new laws passed.

In October 2023, the validity of a scientific report issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology was challenged before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Incredibly, the court stated that federal agencies are permitted to issue reports that contain **demonstrably false information**, provided they meet “statutory requirements.”

This means that government agencies can issue reports that it *knows* are inaccurate – even fraudulent.

Equally disturbing is that most citizens and organizations are not deemed to have the standing to challenge federal scientific reports in court.

The United States Supreme Court was petitioned to hear an appeal of the ruling, but it declined to do so.

Considering the role that government scientific reports play in determining public policy, this decision sets a dangerous standard. In addition to making the federal government unaccountable to the people, it also provides legal cover for

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elected officials and bureaucrats who issue findings based on hidden political or personal agendas.

This must not be allowed to continue.

Government must be accountable to the people. Citizens must have confidence that any reports issued by their government are accurate and true. And when government assertions fall short of this standard, citizens must be able to challenge them.

For this reason, we demand passage of the Scientific Integrity Act.

The Scientific Integrity Act is legislation, currently being drafted, that would require that scientific reports issued by the federal government include data, cite evidence, and make findings that are **accurate and true**. Also, conclusions must be based on valid and verifiable interpretations of the data.

Science is never finished; it is an ongoing process of analysis and evaluation. The Act would classify federal scientific reports as living documents, compelling the agencies that publish them to acknowledge and incorporate any new, verifiably correct, evidence and information when they are made aware of it.

When this occurs, the agency must reevaluate its findings and issue a corrected report. Since new information can take time to be discovered, the Act would also prohibit federal agencies from declaring their scientific reports to be “final.”

Just as importantly, the Act would give citizens and groups standing to legally challenge agencies that fail to correct



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their reports. The Act would establish that all citizens are impacted by federal scientific reports, so it would eliminate the burden on plaintiffs to prove a direct injury from the federal government's inaccurate findings.

Are you ready to stand up for scientific integrity?

We invite legislators and their staff to work with our team in creating and passing the Scientific Integrity Act, cementing government accountability into U.S. law. In so doing, you'll help lay the foundation for a better future for our nation in which accuracy and truth are **rights** that belong to all citizens.

Make scientific accountability part of U.S. law!

