



The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight
1208 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight
319 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Haley Stevens
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Research and Technology
227 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Baird
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Research and Technology
532 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Sherrill, Chairwoman Stevens, Ranking Member Norman, and Ranking Member Baird,

I am the Executive Director of the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund (CSLDF), and I write in support of the Scientific Integrity Act.

CSLDF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the scientific endeavor. We work with climate scientists as well as scientists from a variety of scientific disciplines and, as an organization, deeply understand that protecting science is an essential element of producing sound public policies.

To this end, many federal agencies have instituted scientific integrity policies. These policies are intended to help ensure that science relied on by agencies is free from issues such as fraud, fabrication, or plagiarism. They also help to ensure that the work of agency scientists is communicated in a transparent and timely manner to the public as well as to decision-makers. Finally, they help to protect federal scientists from censorship or intimidation, and from having their work altered or ignored for political reasons.

Unfortunately, scientific integrity policies are not always well enforced, and claims of violations are not always rigorously investigated. The Scientific Integrity Act codifies requirements that federal scientific agencies have such policies in place, and that those policies contain certain basic criteria; this would help to ensure that agency scientific integrity policies meet necessary minimum requirements regardless of changes in administration. It would also help to ensure that scientists have clear recourse if an agency is failing to enforce some aspect of its scientific integrity policy, or is not taking complaints seriously.



This is not a partisan issue. Nor is this only an issue for environmentalists. Transparent and timely communication of sound science is essential for agencies and regulators who create policy that affects a huge range of issues, everything from workplace safety rules to acceptable levels of human exposure to pesticides and other toxins. The subject matter of the Scientific Integrity Act is therefore of deep concern for anyone who cares about human health, workers' safety, or transparent government. We urge you to support the Scientific Integrity Act.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kurtz

Lauren Kurtz

Executive Director
Climate Science Legal Defense Fund

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CC:

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
House Committee on Science, Space and
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2306 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
2369 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
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