



Scientific Integrity

Scientific Integrity



Printer friendly page



Mail this to a friend

political interference in science

The United States has an impressive history of investing in scientific research and respecting the independence of scientists. As a result, we have enjoyed sustained economic progress and public health, as well as unequaled leadership within the global scientific community. Recent actions by political appointees, however, threaten to undermine this legacy by preventing the best available science from informing policy decisions that have serious consequences for our health, safety, and environment.

Across a broad range of issues—from childhood lead poisoning and mercury emissions to climate change, reproductive health, and nuclear weapons—political appointees have distorted and censored scientific findings that contradict established policies. In some cases, they have manipulated the underlying science to align results with predetermined political decisions.

They have also undermined the independence of scientific advisory panels by subjecting panel nominees to political litmus tests that have no bearing on their expertise, and by nominating under- or unqualified individuals—some of whom have industry ties that could represent a conflict of interest. Other scientific advisory committees have been disbanded altogether.

These activities have naturally outraged members of the scientific community, and have also drawn criticism from numerous legislators who rely on the independence of government research. The American public, which trusts its government to make well-informed decisions in the interest of public health and safety, should be concerned as well.

UCS is working with scientists and ordinary

Program Overview Political Interference in Science Restoring Scientific Integrity

Stay Informed

Sign up for our online action networks or electronic newsletters. Enter your email address for a list of options.

Contents

Scientist Statement on Scientific Integrity

- [Scientists Sign-on Statement](#)
- [Prominent Statement Signatories](#)
- [List of 9,000+ Signers](#)

Evidence of Political Interference

- [Political Interference in Science at the FDA](#)
- [Proposed EPA Air Pollution Rules Threaten Public Health](#)
- [Reports: Scientific Integrity in Policy Making](#)
- [Specific Examples of the Abuse of Science](#)
- [FDA Scientists Issued Early Warnings on Drug approvals](#)
- [Survey: Political interference at NOAA Fisheries](#)
- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Survey](#)
- [more...](#)

News & Views

- [Scientific Integrity Update -- 9/2006](#)
- [Scientific Integrity in the News](#)
- [Editorials on the Misuse of Science](#)
- [Poll: The Public's Belief in Independent Science](#)
- [The Science of Evolution](#)

Resources & Information

- [Surveys of Scientists at Federal Agencies](#)
- [Integrity of Science Working Group](#)
- [Other Groups Addressing Scientific Integrity](#)
- [Poll: The Public's Belief in Independent Science](#)
- [NAS on use of Political Litmus Tests](#)

citizens alike to spur appropriate legislative and regulatory action. Find out more information about [how you can help us](#) restore scientific integrity to federal policy making.

[Home](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#) | [Donate](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [RSS](#)
© Union of Concerned Scientists
Page Last Revised: 08/23/05

