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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
TTY (202) 225-6852

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May 18, 2004

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
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End “Cynicism” on Scientific Evidence

Vote for Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432

Dear Colleague:

Past Republican and Democratic agency administrators have called attention to increasing political interference with science in federal agencies. I urge you to support the creation of an independent commission to investigate this concern and to protect scientific integrity in the regulatory process. **Please vote today for the Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432 to establish a commission on the politicization of science.**

No one understands the impact that flawed information can have on federal rule-making better than past Administrators. When these distinguished public servants express concerns about the quality of scientific advice and the distortion of science in the regulatory process, Congress should listen:

- “I’m not aware that [Nixon] ever hand-picked ideologues to serve on advisory committees, or dismissed from advisory committees very well-qualified people if he didn’t like their views What’s going on now is in many ways more insidious. It happens behind the curtain. I don’t think we’ve had this kind of cynicism with respect to objective scientific advice since I’ve been watching government, which is quite a long time.”

— **Dr. Lewis Branscomb**, Director of the National Bureau of Standards in the Nixon Administration (Jan. 6, 2004)

- “I don’t think any administration has penetrated so deeply into the advisory committee structure as this one, and I think it matters. If you start picking people by their ideology instead of their scientific credentials you are inevitably reducing the quality of the advisory group”

— **Dr. Donald Kennedy**, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration in the Carter Administration (Dec. 23, 2002)

(over)

- “There appears today to be a steady erosion in [the Environmental Protection Agency’s] independent status. . . . [T]he interest of the American people lies in having full disclosure of the facts, particularly when the issue is one with such potentially enormous damage to the long-term health and economic well-being of all of us.”

— **Russell Train**, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in the Nixon and Ford Administrations (June 21, 2003)

- “Tinkering with scientific information, either striking it from reports or altering it, is becoming a pattern of behavior It represents the politicizing of a scientific process, which at once manifests a disdain for professional scientists working for our government and a willingness to be less than candid with the American people.”

— **Roger G. Kennedy**, Director of the National Park Service in the Clinton Administration (June 26, 2003)

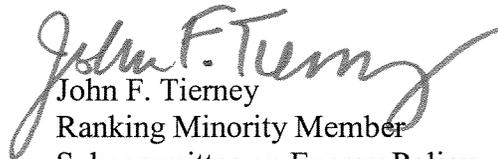
These serious concerns deserve a serious response. I urge you to vote for the Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432 to establish an independent commission on scientific integrity in the regulatory process.

For more information, please contact Josh Sharfstein on the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member



John F. Tierney
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Energy Policy,
Natural Resources and Regulatory
Affairs