Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2005

Stop Political Interference with Science:
*** Cosponsor H.R. 839 ***

Dear Colleague:

As you know, 48 Nobel Laureates, major scientific organizations, and leading scientific journals have all criticized the Administration for tampering with science. The most prestigious American scientific journal, *Science,* has editorialized that the Administration "invades areas once immune to this kind of manipulation." Its counterpart *Nature* has taken the position that the Administration's approach to science is "ideologically driven" and "remarkably ill-judged."

This interference with science isn't just wrong. It's dangerous for policy and the public. To address the many challenges facing our nation, members of Congress and our citizens need access to best possible scientific information.

That's why we introduced H.R. 839, a bill to "Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking." The bill would:

- Ban obstructing scientific research, censoring federal scientists, and disseminating false or misleading scientific information.
- Protect federal whistleblowers who disclose allegations of political interference with science.
- Strengthen the integrity and independence of federal scientific advisory committees by prohibiting appointments based on political litmus tests and adding protections against conflict of interests.
- Ensure that federal science-based agencies — not the White House —establish the standards for peer review of agency science.

If you would like more information about the Administration's interference with science, or would like to cosponsor H.R. 839, please contact Christopher Davis at 225-5051.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform

Bart Gordon
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Science

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