

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2004

Union of Concerned Scientists:
Support Waxman-Tierney Amendment Today

Dear Colleague:

The Union of Concerned Scientists has just issued a strong statement of support for the Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432. This amendment would establish an independent, bipartisan commission to study the politicization of science in the regulatory process and make recommendations to protect scientific integrity.

The amendment responds to growing concern in the scientific community about political interference with science. In recent months, 20 Nobel Laureates, major scientific journals including *Science* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and major scientific organizations have called attention to this alarming trend.

This afternoon, the Union of Concerned Scientists, representing tens of thousands of scientists issued the following statement:

The Union of Concerned Scientists strongly supports the Waxman-Tierney amendment to establish an independent, bipartisan commission to investigate widespread allegations of political manipulation of science in federal policymaking. It is unacceptable for any administration, Republican or Democratic, to suppress or distort scientific analysis, undermine the quality of scientific advisory panels, or take other actions that prevent objective and impartial science from informing policymaking.

Yet in all too many cases, this is precisely what the current administration has done when scientific findings are in conflict with its policy objectives. The scientific community has grown increasingly concerned about these abuses, as underscored by the statement issued by 62 prominent scientists in February.

We urge your support for the Waxman-Tierney amendment.

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
Committee on Government Reform