

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for S.4545, the Scientific Integrity Act, and urge the Committee to schedule a hearing and advance this vital legislation to the Senate floor without delay.

The Scientific Integrity Act would establish safeguards to ensure that federal science is transparent, independent, and protected from political interference. If enacted, the bill would require federal agencies to develop and enforce scientific integrity policies to ensure federal scientists can conduct, communicate, and apply scientific research free from censorship or manipulation.

Strong protections for scientific integrity are key to public trust and effective governance. Independent science helps protect public health, strengthen the economy, improve disaster preparedness, advance innovation, and ensure communities have access to accurate information about the risks they face. Americans depend on federal scientific expertise every day for medical research, food safety, environmental protection, weather forecasting, workplace safety, and much more.

The need to protect federal science is more urgent than ever. A recent report from the Union of Concerned Scientists found that in the past year alone there were at least [574 documented attacks on science](#), undermining scientific agencies, sidelining experts and weakening safeguards that communities regularly depend on. These attacks disrupted medical and public health research, weakened climate and air quality protections and hindered scientists' ability to communicate their findings to the public. Without

stronger protections, there could be future efforts to politicize science in ways that harm public health, [economic competitiveness](#) and public faith within government institutions.

S. 4545 would protect federal scientists from retaliation for refusing to suppress or falsify scientific findings. Additionally, it requires agencies to integrate whistleblower protections, form clear reporting and appeals processes, and appoint a Scientific Integrity Officer to supervise compliance. When political pressure distorts science, those willing to speak the truth must have somewhere to turn and confidence that doing so will not cost their careers. The Scientific Integrity Act would create government-wide standards and accountability mechanisms, ensuring that federal decision-making is informed by the best available science and that scientists are protected when communicating evidence-based findings or reporting political interference, censorship, or retaliation.

We urge the Committee to schedule a hearing on the Scientific Integrity Act, move it through markup, and advance it to the Senate floor. Federal scientists must be protected from political interference, censorship, and retaliation so that they can do their jobs and serve the public. The documented and ongoing attacks on federal science are costly. Americans who depend on independent scientific expertise for their health, safety, and livelihoods can't wait.

Sincerely,

Addiction Science Defense Network

AFL-CIO

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Bird Conservancy

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

Center for Progressive Reform

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Climate Science Legal Defense Fund (CSLDF)

Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO (DPE)

Drug Policy Alliance

Earthjustice Action

Endangered Species Coalition

Environmental Protection Network

Federal Fire Fighters Joint Council, International Association of Fire Fighters

Government Accountability Project

Government Information Watch

Ibis Reproductive Health

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)

International Plate Printers, Die Stampers ,Plate Makers & Engravers of North America

Jacobs Institute of Women's Health

Jobs to Move America

National Federation of Federal Employees

National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives

National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)

National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)

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OPCMIA

Public Citizen

Sciencecorps.org

Society of Conservation Biology North America

Union of Concerned Scientists

Cc: Members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee