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Pushing Back on President Politicizing Science

Union of Concerned Scientists, AFGE Local 3403 Endorse the Scientific Integrity Act

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and AFGE Local 3403, AFL-CIO endorse The Scientific Integrity Act ([H.R. 1106](#)), which is designed to ensure that agencies use robust and independent science in their decision-making processes, and that federal science and scientists are properly protected from inappropriate political influence in current and future presidential administrations.

“The best science-informed policies rely on a basic principle: that science is independent and impartial. But government officials are sidelining science for political, financial, and ideological reasons, weakening health and safety protections and putting Americans and American scientific leadership at risk,” said Jennifer Jones, the director of the Center for Science and Democracy at (UCS).

The current administration has carried out more than 400 attacks on science in its first six months, including firing federal scientists, rolling back science-based public safeguards, and massively slashing federally funded research, according to the UCS report “[Science and Democracy Under Siege](#),” released yesterday.

The dismantling of federal science capacity threatens American scientific leadership. The scientific process itself is being undermined as President Trump’s “[Gold Standard Science](#)” executive order calls for replacing an established, rigorous peer review process with political oversight.

“The National Science Foundation’s peer review process is already second-to-none. It is, quite literally, the Gold Standard,” said Jesus Soriano President, AFGE Local 3403. “The Scientific Integrity Act will ensure we keep basing science on fact, not the preferences of whoever happens to be appointed.”

Federal scientists are doing the work to keep Americans healthy and safe - keeping our air and water clean, our food and medicine safe, and protecting us from extreme weather events like floods and droughts.

“Preventing federal scientists from providing critical scientific information to the public can endanger people's lives, especially during national emergencies,” said Jones. “It is crucial that Congress codify scientific integrity into law and require all agencies to implement and enforce those laws.”

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About the Union of Concerned Scientists: The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) is a national nonprofit organization founded more than 50 years ago by scientists and students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science into action, developing solutions and advocating for a healthy, safe, and just future.

About Save NSF: Save NSF is a grassroots platform created by AFGE Local 3403 and supported by scientists, researchers, and students of the sciences from across the nation. Save NSF works to raise awareness of the direct harm cuts to NSF grants and funding will have on American economic, technological, and innovation leadership.

About AFGE Local 3403: The American Federation of Government Employees Local 3403 represents most researchers, scientists and administrative employees at NSF. The union advocates for the communities they serve and fundamental, curiosity-driven research to drive the progress of science, development and innovation.