Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2005

Preserve the Integrity of Federal Climate Change Science

Dear Colleague:

Last week, the *New York Times* reported that a White House official systematically scrubbed federal scientific documents on climate change to downplay the role of fossil fuel emissions in global warming. The same White House official had previously been the "climate team leader" for the oil industry lobby. A whistleblower featured in the article also revealed how political appointees, rather than scientists, orchestrated government climate research priorities. He said of the interference, "The White House so successfully politicized the science program that I decided it was necessary to terminate my relationship with it."

This is not the first indication that the White House has been tampering with climate change science. As the attached Fact Sheet shows, the Administration has participated in numerous attempts to undermine the scientific evidence of global climate change: allowing political appointees to edit their contents, interfering with multinational panels to bias their findings, and intimidating agencies from pursuing important climate change research.

This interference with science is dangerous for policy and for the public. Global warming is a serious threat to the long-term health of the environment and security of the United States. To address the many challenges facing our nation, members of Congress and our citizens need access to the best possible scientific information.

That is why we urge you to support H.R. 839, a bill to "Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking." The bill would prohibit interference with science on global warming and other scientific issues of national significance. It would:

- ban the tampering with or censorship of federally funded scientific research or analysis;
- protect federal whistleblowers who disclose allegations of political interference with science;
- strengthen the integrity of federal scientific advisory committees by prohibiting appointments based on political litmus tests and adding protections against conflict of interests; and
- ensure that federal science-based agencies set up peer review standards that meet their needs.

For more information or to cosponsor H.R. 839, contact Christopher Davis at 225-5051.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform

John W. Olver
Co-Chair
House Climate Change Caucus

Enclosure

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