



Ethical Action Report



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Government Reform: Tell Federal Agencies to Let Scientists Speak Out

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) all practice policies that effectively censor their scientists. Write to the directors of these agencies and demand that scientists be allowed to speak out.

OSHA
Jordan Barab
200 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20210

FWS
Rowan W. Gould
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

EPA
Lisa Jackson
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

CPSC
Patsy Semple

BLM
Mike Poole
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240

BACKGROUND

Some federal government scientists have reported that they are often discouraged from sharing scientific research with the public. In fact, a recent investigation by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that some federal agencies have media policies that in effect censor their scientists. These policies are dangerous because they keep scientists from delivering vital information to the public about matters of health and safety.

Please write to the above federal agencies and urge them to improve open communication between their scientists and the press.

Separation of Church and State: Urge Your Representative to Oppose the "America's Spiritual Heritage" Resolution 397

Write to your representative and ask him or her to oppose the "America's Spiritual Heritage" resolution 397

BACKGROUND

The United States House of Representatives is currently considering a resolution to create "America's Spiritual Heritage Week," which would designate the first week in May as a time for appreciation and education about religious faith.

The resolution claims that faith and our government are "inseparable," and makes questionable claims about the significance of various historical events. Furthermore, resolution 397 suggests that the House of Representatives reject "in the strongest possible terms" attempts to contradict and contest this questionable account of American history.

Resolution 397 is an affront to the separation of church and state, secular principles and the many nontheists who have shaped the history of the United States. Please contact your Member of Congress and urge him or her to oppose resolution 397.

Human Rights: Ask Obama to Reject the Military Commissions System

Contact the White House and urge President Obama to overturn the Military Commissions System. Ask that detainees are instead prosecuted through established legal channels.

BACKGROUND

During President Obama's first week in office he suspended the military commission system for prosecuting detainees held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. But now, despite concerns about due process and the rule of law, the Obama administration has decided to revive the much-criticized military commission system to prosecute some detainees.

Please write to President Obama and ask him to reverse this decision, which is an unnecessary compromise of American values and will weaken efforts to improve U.S. relations around the world.

Climate Change: Ask the Environmental Protection Agency to Halt Permission for New Blended Gasoline until More Studies are Completed

Please write to Lisa Jackson, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and ask that approval for a new blended gasoline with higher amounts of ethanol be held off until more studies are done on its environmental impact.

Send letters to:

Administrator Lisa Jackson
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

BACKGROUND

The American Coalition for Ethanol has joined several other agencies to petition the Environmental Protection Agency to increase the amount of ethanol that can be blended in a gallon of traditional gasoline from 10% to 15%. Despite being hailed by some politicians as a measure to boost a clean-energy economy, this change could have potentially negative impacts on climate change and global warming. The initial analysis of the EPA determined that greenhouse gas emissions from ethanol use might increase in certain scenarios. It would therefore be premature to approve a waiver for increased ethanol use before a thorough analysis of the public health and environmental impacts of the new blend are completed and fully understood.

Please write to the Environmental Protection Agency and ask that they hold off on allowing this new blended gasoline until more studies into its environmental impacts are completed.

Contacting Elected Officials

White House

Mailing Address

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Number

Comments: (202) 456-1111
Switchboard: (202) 456-1414
Fax: (202) 456-2461

Electronic Contact

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Congress

Mailing Address

United States Senate
or
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Phone Number

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

E-mail

Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov
to use your representatives' e-mail
contact forms.

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www.secular.org.