



Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 610 • Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (202) 265-PEER • Fax: (202) 265-4192

Email: info@peer.org • Web: <http://www.peer.org>

July 12, 2019

Rep. Paul D. Tonko
Washington D.C. Office
2369 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: PEER endorsement of Scientific Integrity Act, HR 1709

Dear Rep. Tonko:

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) is a non-profit group that works nationwide with government scientists, land managers, law enforcement agents, field specialists and other leading environmental professionals. We have represented a large number of Federal scientists over the years and are very concerned about their wellbeing and careers, as well as with the proper functioning of their agencies and with the public interest in the research that they do. Because of those concerns PEER endorses the **Scientific Integrity Act, HR 1709**.

Here are just three examples of attacks in this Administration on scientific experts who tackle tough environmental issues; in several of these cases your proposed bill could have helped.

- The Centers for Disease Control has sidelined a global expert on the effects of climate change on human health and destroyed his program, which Congress had funded to examine such effects.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists warned of devastating losses to Alaskan polar bear populations due to oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which the Department of the Interior managers are ignoring.
- The Department of Agriculture has refused to publicize dozens of government-funded studies that carry warnings about the effects of climate change, defying a longstanding practice of touting such findings by the Department's in-house scientists.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our nation's scientists. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Timothy Whitehouse
Executive Director