May 18, 2017

Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We write to express our concerns over recent reports that several members of the Board of Scientific Counselors at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been dismissed. We are alarmed at the signal this sends about both the priorities of the EPA and about its willingness to protect the environment.

As the body tasked with advising on the technical issues of the EPA’s research programs, the Board of Scientific Counselors should be comprised of highly qualified, knowledgeable experts whose views are grounded in scientific research. Removing qualified, respected members of the board to make room for more input from the industries being regulated would not only create conflicts of interest, it is also unnecessary as the EPA’s larger Scientific Advisory Board already includes credible scientists from industry.

We urge you to maintain the rigorous standards and technical expertise of the Board of Scientific Counselors. It is in our country’s best interest to ensure that the EPA’s regulations have a sound scientific basis which requires scientific advisors who are committed to rigorous scientific review for its own sake.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress