



January 26, 2017

Mr. Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
United States of America

Dear President Trump:

I write to you today as CEO of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, a member organization consisting of more than one hundred and ten thousand researchers worldwide, offering our considerable expertise and experience in science and engineering research. I wish to express concern regarding recent reports of restrictions imposed on public and media relations at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies.

As you know, a strong research enterprise is the foundation of the American economy, the most powerful in the world. Leading economists estimate that approximately half of U.S. economic growth in recent decades has come from investments in science and technology. For 131 years, Sigma Xi has ensured the health and fitness of our nation's research enterprise by promoting excellence and honoring ethical conduct of science.

Sigma Xi's members have historically served as advisors to the President and as appointees and staff throughout the federal government. As part of their commitment to our Society, these civil servants have pledged "to maintain honor, integrity, and honesty in all scientific activities." By setting the standard of conduct not only among our members but throughout the scientific community, we have helped establish a culture of trust and confidence in research unparalleled in the world.

This trust is maintained through the free flow of information between research institutions, including the federal agencies, where research is conducted, and the public, where it is applied. Particularly now, rapid dissemination of research findings has far-reaching effects on jobs, the economy, global competitiveness, and national security. We all need to work hard to ensure that

the transfer of information to the public is ensured to support their ability to prepare and respond to natural disasters, fight the spread of disease, resolve environmental concerns, and take further actions to improve their daily lives.

For these reasons, we urge you to move quickly to enable the rapid dissemination of information to the public. We share one of your primary goals—to improve the lives of all Americans. We believe the path toward a better quality of life is through robust and honest communication between the government and the public.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response. You may contact me at jnemeth@sigmaxi.org or Jamie Vernon (jvernon@sigmaxi.org) with Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society.

We at Sigma Xi stand ready and willing to work with you on this and other important issues related to science and technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John C. Nemeth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John C. Nemeth, PhD
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Publisher of *American Scientist*
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society