

Science & Technology Advice for the New Administration

Dear Senator McCain:

The next President of the United States will face a wide range of domestic and international challenges, from financial and regulatory reform to healthcare and rising energy costs, from global climate change to ensuring U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. These challenges share one thing in common: long-term solutions that will be impossible without groundbreaking scientific and technological advances. It is therefore critical that the next President seek out and rely upon sound scientific and technological advice *early* and *often* in the new Administration.

Your responses to the *Science Debate 2008* questions reflect your acknowledgment of the important role that science will play in a new Administration. With this in mind, it is essential to quickly appoint a science advisor who is a nationally respected leader with the appropriate scientific, management and policy skills necessary for this critically important role.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations representing the business, education and scientific communities urge you, if you are elected President, to appoint your White House Science Advisor by January 20, so this individual can participate immediately in coordinating relevant policy and personnel decisions relating to science and technology.

We further urge that the next President give the science advisor the title of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and assign the position a cabinet rank, the same status currently given to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Trade Representative.

The next President must lead our country in addressing the national issues of concern to us all. To do so effectively, science and technology must be part of the solution. Putting a science advisor in place early, and providing this individual with adequate stature and authority within the White House, will help the new President effectively address the challenges we face.

Sincerely,



Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for the Advancement of Science



Robert M. Berdahl
President
Association of American Universities



Deborah L. Wince-Smith
President
Council on Competitiveness



David M. Abshire
President
Center for the Study of the Presidency



The Honorable John Edward Porter
Chair, National Academies Committee on
Ensuring the Best Science and Technology
Appointments in the New Administration



Richard A. Meserve
President
Carnegie Institution for Science

Academy of Radiology Research
AeA (American Electronics Association)
Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronautical Society
American Astronomical Society
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geological Institute
American Heart Association
American Humanist Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
The American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Welding Society
Americans for Cures Foundation
Arizona State University
ASME
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities
Association of Environmental Engineering & Science Professors (AEESP)
Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science-Technology Centers
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Battelle
Botanical Society of America
Brookhaven National Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
CAMR - Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research
Carnegie Institution for Science
Carnegie Mellon University
Carnegie Observatories
Case Western Reserve University
Center for Inquiry
Center for the Study of the Presidency
Chemical Heritage Foundation
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc.
Cornell University
Council on Competitiveness
Council on Governmental Relations
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America

CSU Channel Islands
Department of Pediatrics, Saint Louis University
Desert Research Institute, Nevada System of Higher Education
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative North America
Duke University
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
Environmental Mutagen Society
Emory University
The FAIR Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
FasterCures
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida State University
Friends of the Earth
Fusion Power Associates
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
IEEE-USA
Illinois Science Council
Institute of Food Technologists
Johns Hopkins Institutions
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative
Kettering University
Kids That Care Pediatric & Cancer Fund
Linguistic Society of America
Lipid Sciences, Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Manhattanville College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan Society for Medical Research
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
NASULGC, A Public University Association
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Center for Science Education, Inc.
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National MS Society New England Chapter
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Space Society
Natural Science Collections Alliance
New York Medical College
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine
Penn State University
Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc. (PPSI)
Population Association of America
Research Corporation
Research!America
Rockefeller University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
The Science Coalition
Science Debate 2008
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society for Women's Health Research
Soil Science Society of America
SPARC
Stanford University
State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
State University of New York
Stony Brook University
Student Society for Stem Cell Research (SSSCR)
Syracuse University
Teratology Society

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise Council
Union of Concerned Scientists
University at Buffalo
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of California Office of the President
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Minnesota
University of Michigan
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution