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AAAS Statement: EPA “Transparency Rule” Weakens the Use of Science in Policymaking

“This Environmental Protection Agency so-called ‘transparency rule’ is not about transparency or strengthening science. EPA’s mission is to ‘protect human and environmental health,’ yet its current leadership has consistently ignored warnings from the scientific, medical and public health communities that this rule jeopardizes the agency’s ability to fulfill its mission. In following through with this flawed policy anyway, the EPA administrator is undermining the agency’s ability to use the best available science as it makes decisions. Even more alarming is that the agency is moving forward with this rule despite criticism and warnings from its own Scientific Advisory Board. Let’s call this rule what it is: a deliberate attempt to exclude scientific evidence from the policymaking process. It puts the EPA’s mission and our public health at risk. The current COVID-19 pandemic is showing us in real time the necessity of scientific expertise in decision-making.”

— Sudip Parikh, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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