



December 19, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Mulvaney,

As this Administration nears the end of its first year, we the undersigned science, engineering and higher-education organizations are writing to respectfully request your assistance and commitment in ensuring that the federal government utilizes science-based decision making in its policy formulations, that scientific information is communicated in an accurate manner and reflected as such in government documents, reports and web-sites. Recent reports regarding alleged recommendations to restrict the use of certain science and policy terminology in budget documents by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) generated alarm among the scientific community about the role of science in government.

While we very much appreciate the CDC director's clarifying statements that there are no words that are banned at their agency and that they will continue to utilize scientific evidence in setting policies, our community remains concerned and request you encourage the heads of all federal agencies to support the use of science in decision making and to support the scientists who produce the knowledge upon which the nation's economy relies.

At the interface of science and society, the federal government and its research agencies play a critically important role. The capacity to understand and effectively address important policy issues depends on access to relevant, accurately communicated scientific and technical information. At the same time, government agencies provide an important link between the public -- as beneficiaries of federally funded research -- and federal information, including scientific and technological information. Hence, it is vital that government agencies communicate and provide access to scientifically accurate information.

Scientific and technological knowledge is the foundation for future research, experimentation, debate, consensus-building and understanding. Scientifically accurate information builds the foundation for public policies that promote the well-being of people and communities. The selection, removal or replacement of scientific information for ideological or political reasons compromises the integrity of the process of receiving scientific advice.

As we soon enter a new year, we believe it would be an appropriate time for OMB to work with the heads of all government agencies to ensure that they are basing their decisions, communications, policies and regulations on the best scientific evidence. The undersigned would be pleased to work with you in accomplishing this important goal.

Sincerely,

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Geographers  
American Chemical Society



American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Historical Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Professional Geologists  
American Mathematical Society  
American Philosophical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Cell Biology  
American Society for Environmental History  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society of Naturalists  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Arizona State University  
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Population Centers  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
Council on Social Work Education  
Crime & Justice Research Alliance  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association  
National Association of Deans and Directors for Schools of Social Work  
National Communication Association  
National Council for Science and the Environment  
National Council on Family Relations  
National Prevention Science Coalition  
OSA-The Optical Society  
Population Association of America  
Rhetoric Society of America  
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society  
Social Science Research Council  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for Social Work and Research  
The Oceanography Society  
West Virginia University

cc: CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald