

Southern California Federation of Scientists

“Science in the Public Interest”
3318 Colbert Avenue, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310)390-3898 (voice or fax), www.scfs-la.org
Sheldon C. Plotkin, Executive Director

October 6, 2008

Dear Candidate:

Technical and scientific issues are very important in the modern world and most politicians have no scientific background. Currently, scientific advice for policy makers is fragmented and often supplied by lobbyists. The president and congress should have a nonpartisan science advisory committee or agency to which any member of congress or ranking member of the administration can turn for scientific advice or information. The chairperson of this committee should have cabinet level status.

Over the last few decades, various administrations have favored belief over evidence, ideology over reason, political expediency over science, and wishful thinking over realistic assessments. This has been especially true of the current Administration. It has ignored, distorted, and suppressed scientific information in order to support its political agenda, has politicized science, has displayed a callousness toward empirical evidence, and has repeatedly tried to adjust the science to fit its political objectives or to block the release of science that would contradict its policies.

Because of the Bush administration's war on science, the nation has been beset by the dangerous consequences of its many, many harmful decisions that have been made contrary to the objective dictates of scientific research and fact, and contrary to the advice of legions of qualified scientists.

As a result of this destructive eight year practice, the Southern California Federation of Scientists (SCFS) has created, and has unanimously approved, a “**NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY PROPOSAL FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION**” for your consideration relative to your campaign to be elected as the next administration.

The attached document has the full details of the proposal together with a detailed discussion of the issues and rationale for this proposal.

We earnestly hope that you will agree to this proposal, and that you will sign on the dotted line next to your name on the attached document and mail it back to:

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It would surely be a gigantic step forward for our nation if you, together with all of the other listed candidates for the November 4, 2008, national Presidential election, were to sign the attached document. Such a unanimous agreement would signal an end to the destructive abuses of the last decades, especially the last eight years, and a return to rational, scientifically-based decision-making in all matters that have inherent scientific/technological content.

The Southern California Federation of Scientists, since its creation in 1953, has worked extensively and ceaselessly on “Science in the Public Interest”.

Sheldon C. Plotkin, Executive Director