



The Future of Public Health Under President Trump: Threats to Environmental Health and Justice

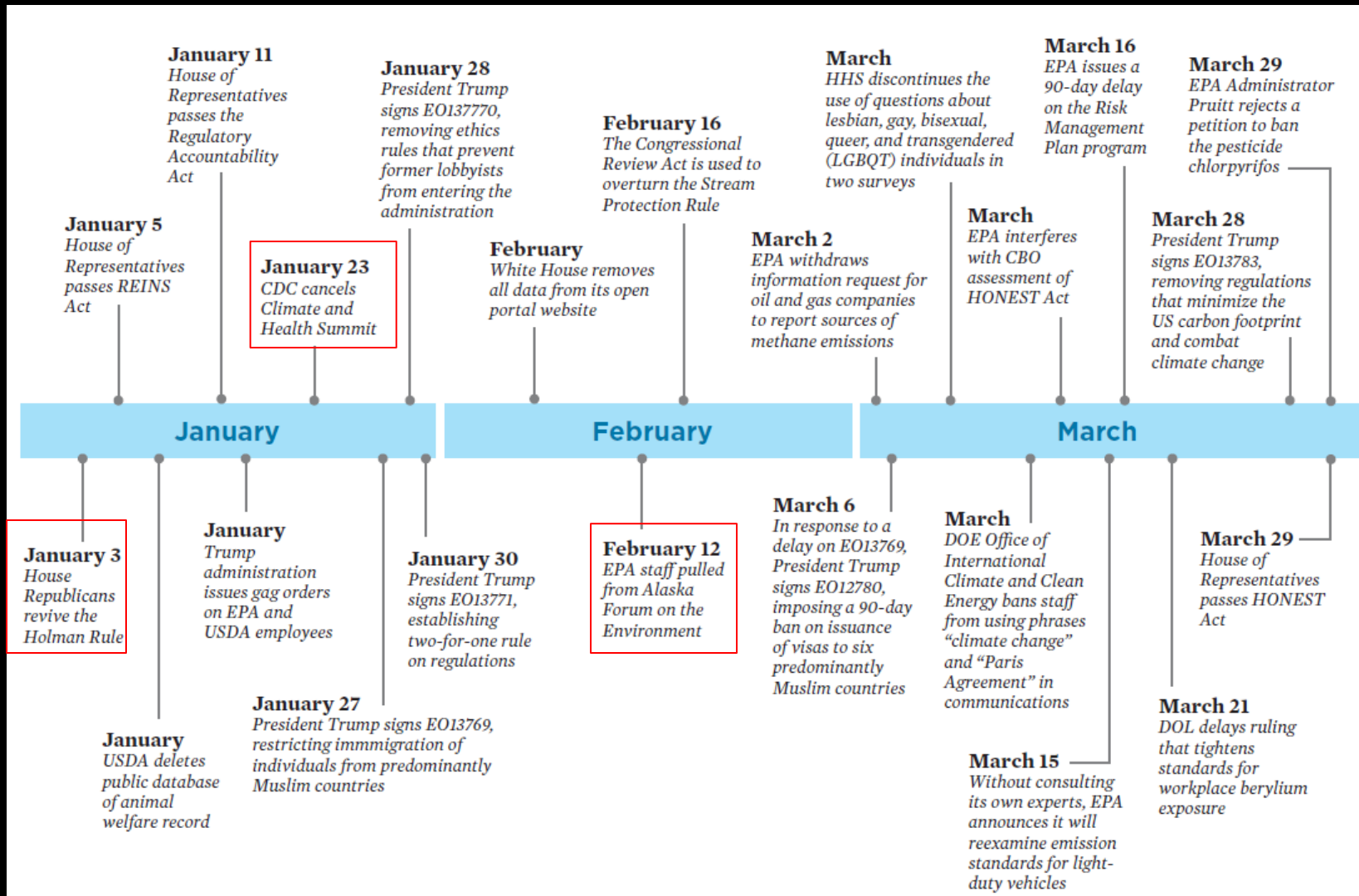
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 Union of
Concerned Scientists



(Partial) Timeline of Political Interference in Science



Disregarding Science Threatens Kids' Health



Putting Profits over People



Rolling Back Climate Change Safeguards



Nixing Emissions Standards under the Clean Air Act

A young child with dark hair, wearing a yellow patterned jacket over a red shirt, is eating a red apple. The child is looking off to the side with a curious expression. The background shows a wooden structure, possibly part of a farm or greenhouse.

{ EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is ignoring the science and putting our children's health at risk.

Callous disregard for Environmental Justice communities



Manchester (Houston), TX



Port Arthur, TX



West Louisville, KY



Voices of Federal Scientists

Americans' Health and Safety Depends on Independent Science

The United States faces extraordinary challenges such as combating climate change, protecting public health, and maintaining economic competitiveness. Every day, Americans hear the opinions of politicians, industry representatives, and media commentators on these topics. However, they only rarely hear from those whose daily work is critical to confronting these challenges: scientists and researchers at federal agencies. These scientists play a vital role in providing policy makers with the data and analyses they need to make the most informed decisions about our health, environment, and national security.


From 2005 to 2007, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) conducted five surveys of federal scientists to evaluate how U.S. agencies use—and misuse—science to make policy decisions.

These surveys gave voice to scientists at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Energy

(DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The results reveal extensive political interference in federal science, with serious and wide-ranging consequences for our health, safety, and environment. This interference has weakened the federal scientific enterprise and impaired the ability of U.S. agencies to serve the public interest, with the potential for long-lasting harm to the federal scientific work force.

Restoring integrity to federal science requires action by the president and the leaders of U.S. agencies, strong and sustained congressional oversight, and the persistent and energetic engagement of many different stakeholders. Together, we must work to protect federal scientist whistle-blowers who report abuses of science, improve public access to scientific information, and reform the regulatory process to ensure that policy decisions are informed by the best available scientific information.



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