



# Science and the Public Good: Tackling Scientific Integrity in the Federal Government

Andrew Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Union of  
**Concerned Scientists**

# Center for Science and Democracy

- Seeks to strengthen the role and integrity of science in public policy
  - *We push back against misinformation*
  - *We work to neutralize attacks on the science process*
  - *We defend scientists when they are attacked for their work*
- Works to strengthen Democratic processes by better and fairer access to science
  - *More scientists are engaged in public policy*
  - *Greater access to science for citizens*



**CALL TO ACTION**

**SCIENTIFIC FREEDOM**

Scientific knowledge and its successful application have made the United States of America a powerful nation and its challenges that face the United States in the twenty-first century are honored and sustained.

To that end, the U.S. government must adhere to the principles of implementing its policies. Breaches of this principle threaten the international leadership of the United States. The government must have reliable scientific work and reliable scientific information. This requires the resources and the professional environment necessary for scientific honesty. The government should also draw on the expertise of the scientific community to formulate public policy in a transparent and open manner.

Scientists employed by government institutions and those who have undisclosed conflicts of interest and to carry out their work free of statutory limitations such as national security laws and regulations, and the fear of reprisal or retaliation, have the freedom:

- to conduct their work without political interference
- to candidly communicate their findings
- to publish their work and to participate in the scientific process
- to disclose misrepresentation, censorship, or retaliation
- to have their technical work evaluated by their peers

We call on Congress and the executive branch to



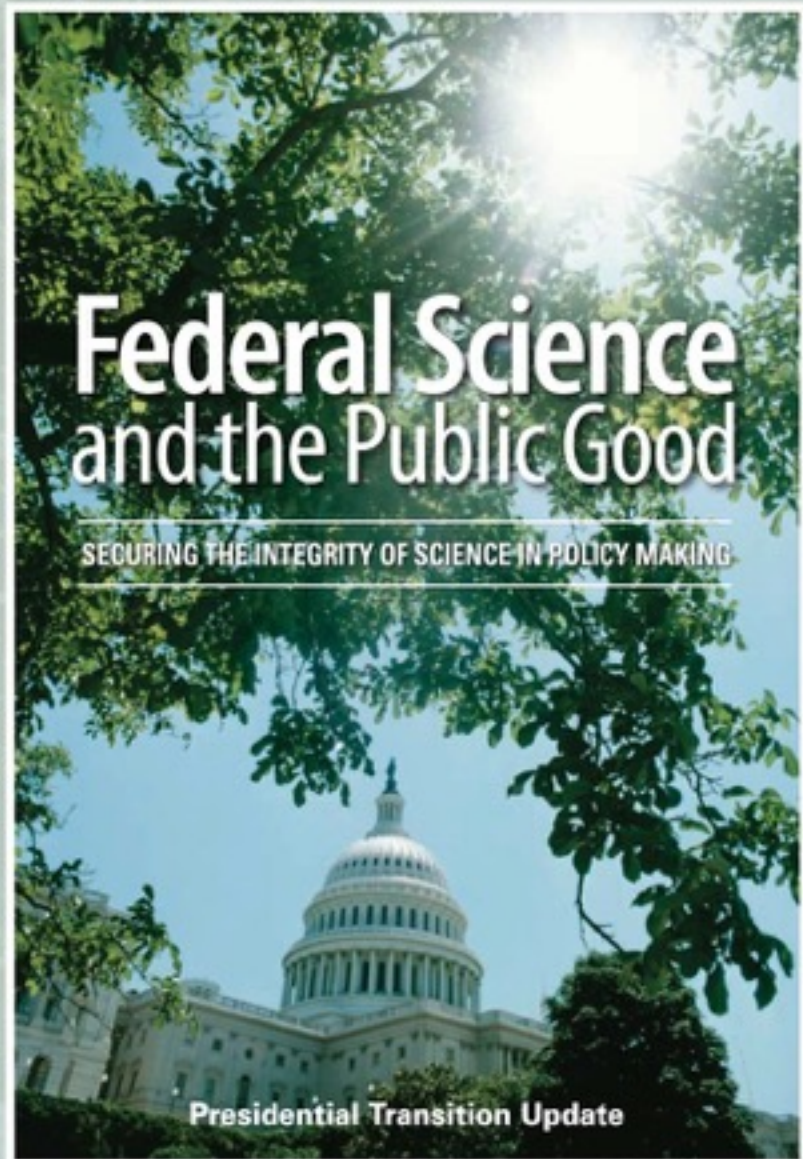
**Voices of Federal Climate Scientists**  
Global Warming Solutions Depend on Unimpeded Science

Climate scientists in the U.S. government are leading experts on global climate change. They are entrusted to observe, analyze, and model our changing planet and convey their findings to other scientists, policy makers, and the public. Unfortunately, these scientists report that their findings are being tailored to reflect political goals rather than scientific fact. They are concerned that, while federal climate scientists are providing a solid basis for understanding climate change and crafting solutions, our government has been obscuring the state of our knowledge by exaggerating the level of uncertainty in global warming science.

In summer 2006, the Union of Concerned Scientists distrib-

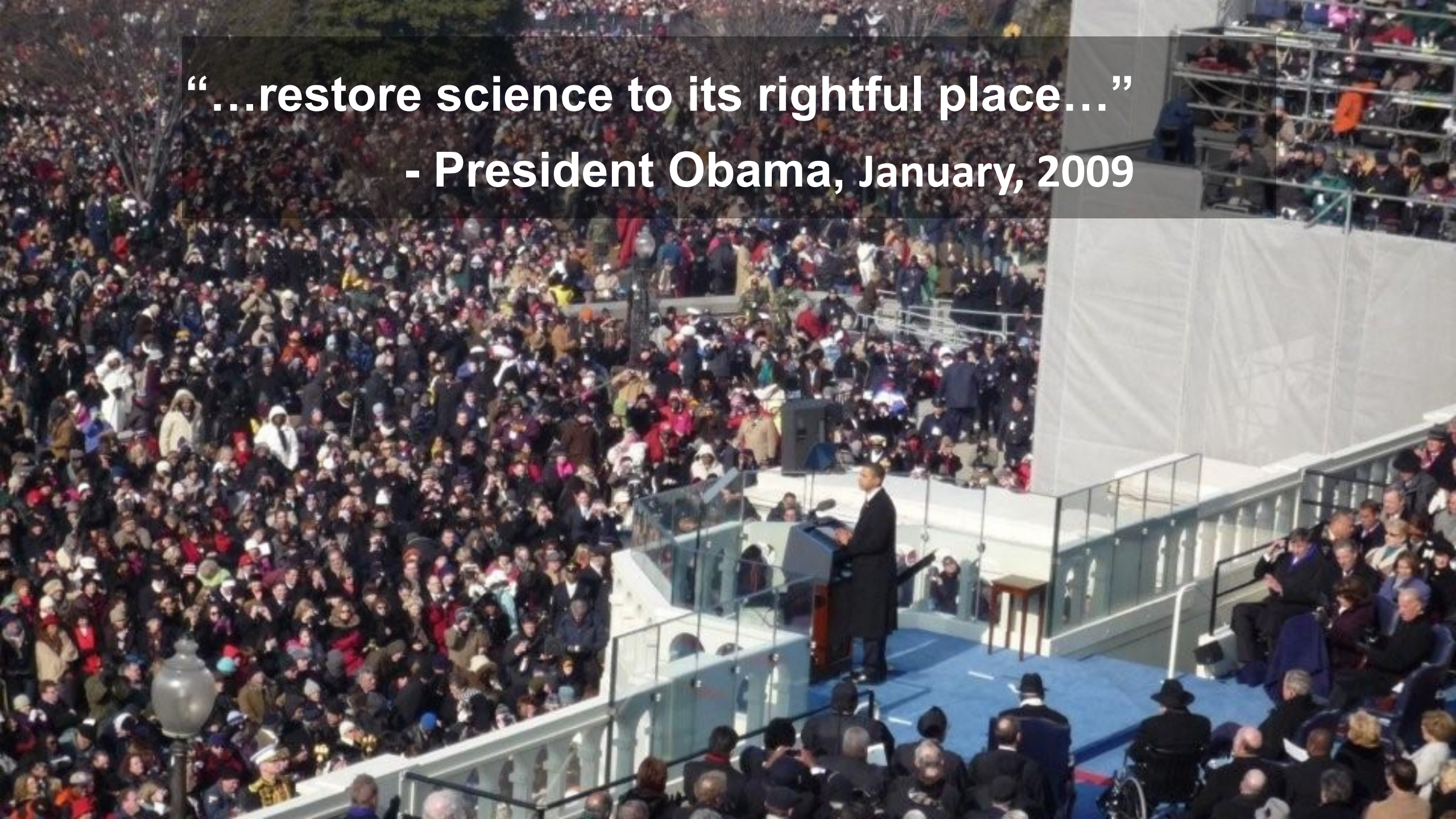
ution about the science and the responses indicated by the integrity of federal climate science is broad and substantial.

The reality of global warming, has been repeated. Every day that we choose to ignore the science we fail to protect future generations from the effects of global warming. We must be allowed to accurately report the science. For this to occur, we need reforms that prohibit



**“...restore science to its rightful place...”**

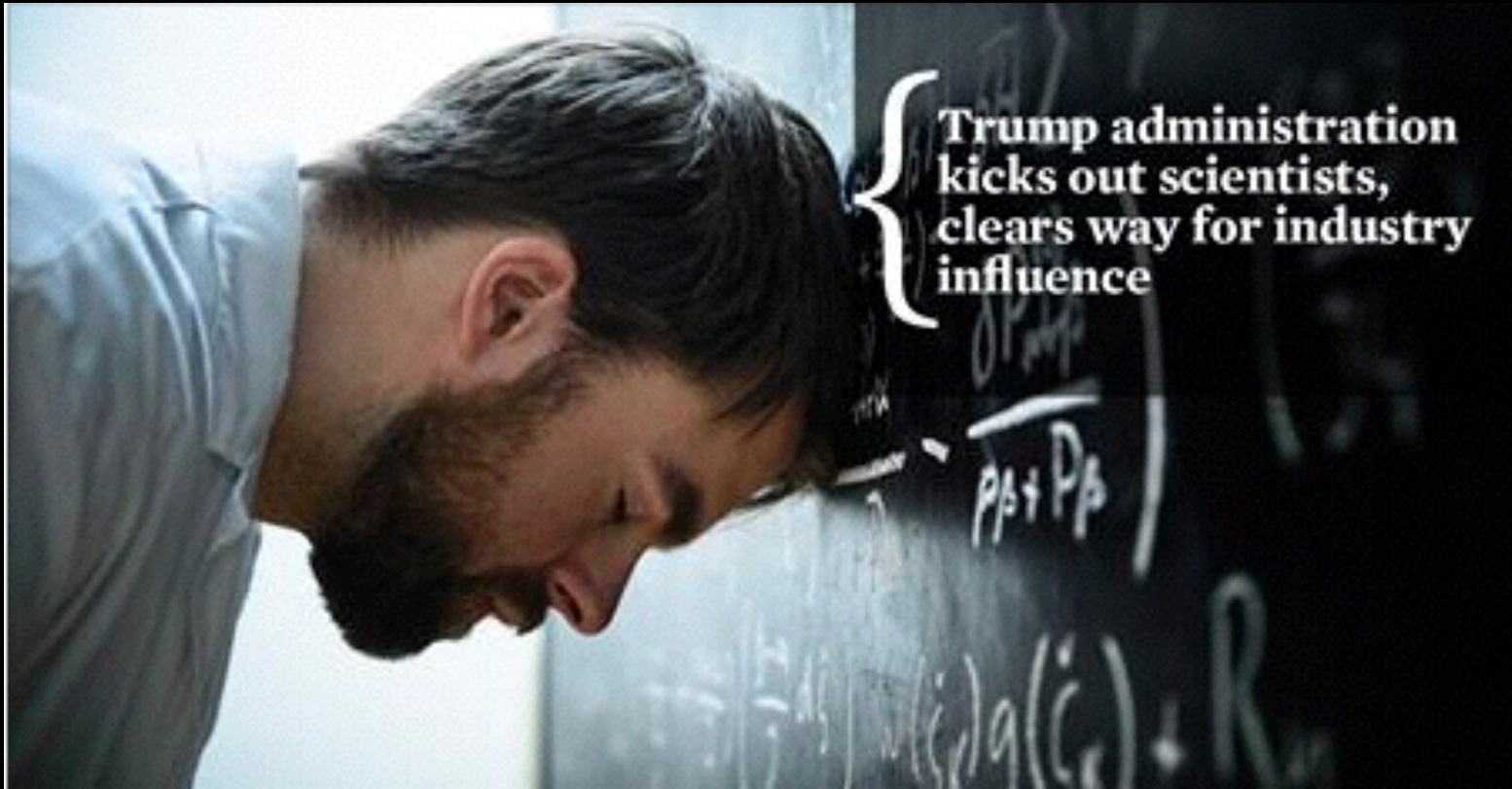
**- President Obama, January, 2009**



# Current Challenges

- “[Prioritizing science over politics] starts with leadership and filters down through the ranks. The less concerned the CDC director is, the less concerned other[s] are.”  
–CDC scientist, 2015
- “FWS has been ‘captured’ by the industries it is meant to regulate.”  
–FWS Scientist, 2015

# Emerging Threats Under the Trump Administration



Trump administration  
kicks out scientists,  
clears way for industry  
influence

## Advisory Committee Shakeup Targets Independent Science and Scientists

There is a full-on assault afoot to strip away the independence of science advisory committees at several government agencies.

[BLOG.UCSUSA.ORG](http://BLOG.UCSUSA.ORG)



Disregarding Science, Trump Administration Trades Kids' Brains for Dow Profit



## Drowning in a Sea of Sufficient Ozone Research: An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

GRETCHEN GOLDMAN, RESEARCH DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY | JUNE 9, 2017, 2:28 PM EDT


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Dear Administrator Pruitt,

When you [decided this week](#) to delay the 2015 ozone rule by one year, citing "insufficient information," did you think about the science of ground-level ozone? Did you look at the data



# Don't call it 'climate change': How the government is rebranding in the age of Trump

By [Chris Mooney](#) and [Lisa Rein](#) May 26 



Agriculture Department headquarters. (Jonathan Newton / The Washington Post)

“Climate change” is out. “Resilience” is in. “Victims of domestic

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**Science and the Public Interest**  
**An Open Letter to President-Elect Trump and the 115th Congress**

Scientific knowledge has played a critical role in making the United States a powerful and prosperous nation and improving the health and well-being of Americans and people around the world. From disease outbreaks to climate change to national security to technology innovation, people benefit when our nation's policies are informed by science unfettered by inappropriate political or corporate influence.

To build on this legacy and extend the benefits of science to all people, including Americans who have been left behind, the federal government must support and rely on science as a key input for crafting public policy. Policy makers and the public alike require access to high-quality scientific information to serve the public interest. There are several actions Congress and the Trump administration should take to strengthen the role that science plays in policy making.

First, creating a strong and open culture of science begins at the top. Federal agencies should be led by officials with demonstrated track records of respecting science as a critical component of decision making. Further, recognizing that diversity makes science stronger, administration officials should welcome and encourage all scientists regardless of religious background, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Second, Congress and the Trump administration should ensure our nation's bedrock public health and environmental laws—such as the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act—retain a strong scientific foundation, and that agencies are able to freely collect and draw upon scientific data to effectively carry out statutory responsibilities established by these laws. They should also safeguard the independence of those outside the government who provide scientific advice.

Third, Congress and the Trump administration should adhere to high standards of scientific integrity and independence in responding to current and emerging public health and environmental threats. Decision makers and the public need to know what the best available scientific evidence is, not what vested interests might wish



# Congress is Trying to Protect Federal Scientists Because President Trump Isn't

GRETCHEN GOLDMAN, RESEARCH DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY | FEBRUARY 8, 2017, 10:03 AM EDT

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**UPDATE, March 2, 2017:** A House version of this bill has been introduced, led by Representatives [Paul Tonko](#), [Niki Tsongas](#), [Alan Lowenthal](#), and [Eddie Bernice Johnson](#). The bill has 77 co-sponsors in total. It is great to see such widespread support in the House for protecting government scientists and scientific integrity. I hope even more of their colleagues will join these members in supporting this legislation and I urge the appropriate committees to take the next steps to move this crucial bill.




# Watchdog for Science

[www.ucsusa.org/watchdogtoolkit](http://www.ucsusa.org/watchdogtoolkit)

- Fact Sheets
- Hosting a Letter-Writing Party
- Talking with Your Elected Officials at Public Events
- Hosting a Public Education Event with Community Groups
- Using Social Media
- Organizing a Call-In Day
- Writing a Sign-On Letter





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