

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We request the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extend the comment period for a minimum 60 days beyond the current 30-day comment period for the proposed rulemaking on Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259).

Any proposed rulemaking must include sufficient time in order to gather input from concerned and affected parties. We are concerned that the proposed rule has provided too limited of a time and opportunity for stakeholder involvement and official public comment.

Given the large response from scientists and stakeholders before the rule was officially proposed, a comment period of 30 days will not allow for meaningful engagement from stakeholders. Prior to the announcement, nearly 1000 scientists signed a letter opposing many of the concepts that are being considered as part of this proposal. Regardless of viewpoint, there is agreement that the proposed rule would be a significant change in how the agency considers science in policymaking. Organizations, scientists, industries, and members of the public deserve additional time to understand how this policy shift may impact them.

EPA has the critical mission of protecting human health and the environment. With this mission in mind, any significant change should go through a thorough discussion, a series of public hearings, and a robust comment period.

We ask that you give the American public and interested stakeholders a chance to engage in the process by extending the timeline by at least 60 days.

Sincerely,



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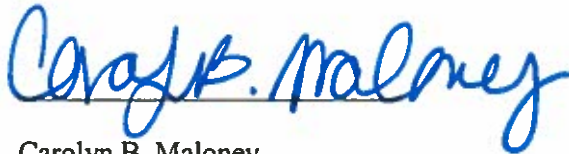
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