



Ecological Society of America
1990 M St, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

May 7, 2018

The Honorable E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Comment period extension request for proposed rulemaking – Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science – Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

The Ecological Society of America, on behalf of over 9,000 professional ecologists, requests that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extend the comment period for the *Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science* proposed rule for a minimum of 60 days beyond the currently scheduled public comment deadline of May 30.

The Society believes that this rule will significantly change the EPA's ability to use the best-available science in decision-making. As a result, this proposed rule could have far-reaching consequences for clean air, clean water, public health and the environment. In its proposed rule, the agency solicits comments on a wide variety of complex scientific and technical issues that require more time for a careful and in-depth analysis by many public stakeholders. Also, as EPA provided no analysis of the potential impacts of its proposal, the public will need additional time to consider what kinds of research could be excluded from the rulemaking process and the consequences of excluding research when making regulations. The public, including the scientific community, should be given sufficient time to analyze and understand the full extent of this rule.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would appreciate the acknowledgment of this letter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Richard Pouyat
President