

December 18, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing to express our concerns about a possible change in federal policies that could significantly threaten a vibrant American scientific enterprise, which has long been a global leader in driving discovery and innovation.

The changes reportedly being discussed would effectively require publishers to immediately make federally funded scientific discoveries published in their journals freely available to the global market. Currently, free distribution of research findings is subject to a 12-month embargo, enabling American publishers to recover the investment made in curating and assuring the quality of scientific research content.

As scientific society leaders overseeing publishing operations, we support open access and have a strong history of advancing open access through a broad array of operational models. This current system allows scientific societies to meet the needs of researchers and U.S. taxpayers, while also funding programs to support the scientific enterprise to keep America a global leader in research and innovation.

The current 12-month embargo period provides science and engineering society publishers the financial stability that enables us to support peer review that ensures the quality and integrity of the research enterprise. Further, it enables us to drive advancement in our respective scientific fields through our meetings, programs and outreach. One particular area of importance is strengthening U.S. STEM infrastructure through education, career, and outreach programs which together build a diverse STEM workforce that underlies U.S. discovery and innovation.

U.S. scientific societies are committed to working on a broad array of issues, including research integrity, data sharing, accessibility, and transparency. To take action to shorten the 12-month embargo would undermine cooperative efforts to address these bigger, higher priorities, and risks the continued international leadership for the U.S. scientific enterprise.

Rather than upsetting the current proven and successful model for reporting, curating and archiving scientific results and advancing the U.S. research enterprise, we encourage your Administration to engage with a broad array of stakeholders to collaboratively ensure openness and reliability in research and development. To that end, we stand ready to work with all interested parties in a forward-looking and constructive manner.

Sincerely yours,

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Dental Association

American Educational Research Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Chemical Engineers  
American Mathematical Society  
American Nuclear Society  
American Oil Chemists Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography  
Biophysical Society  
Crop Science Society of America  
Ecological Society of America  
Endocrine Society  
Entomological Society of America  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Genetics Society of America  
Geological Society of America  
GeoScienceWorld  
International Association for Dental Research  
Material Research Society  
Mineralogical Society of America  
National Academy of Forensic Engineers  
Seismological Society of America  
SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology  
Society for Biomaterials  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Society for Redox Biology and Medicine

Society of Economic Geologists  
Society for Glycobiology  
Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Soil Science Society of America  
The American Association of Immunologists  
The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society  
The Optical Society

CC:

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget, Acting  
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State

The Honorable Mark T. Esper, Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dan Brouillette, Secretary of Energy

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative

The Honorable Russel Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget

Joe Grogan, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Larry Kudlow, Director, National Economic Council

Robert O'Brien, National Security Advisor

The Honorable Kelvin Droegemeier, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

The Honorable Andrei Iancu, Director, United States Patent & Trademark Office

The Honorable Francis Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health

The Honorable France A. Córdova, Director, National Science Foundation

The Honorable Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental  
Observation and Prediction

The Honorable Vishal Amin, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator

The Honorable Roger Wicker, Chair, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation  
Committee

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chair, Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs

The Honorable Gary Peters, Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair, House Science, Space and Technology Committee

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Ranking Member, House Science, Space and Technology Committee

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chair, House Oversight and Reform Committee

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, House Oversight and Reform Committee