



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JUL 10 2009

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

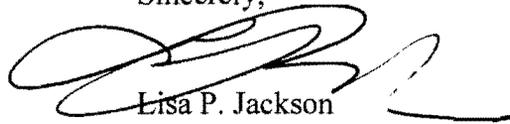
Thank you for your letter of June 24, 2009. I share your concern that EPA decisions be based on sound science and not politics. It is vital that the public be able to trust the science informing EPA's decisions to protect human health and the environment.

President Obama's Memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies on scientific integrity includes six principles for scientific integrity. These principles include a commitment to "well-established scientific processes, including peer review." In addition, I want to reiterate what I said in my May 9, 2009 memorandum to Agency staff about scientific integrity: "I am committed to fostering a culture of robust scientific debate and discussion within the Agency, recognizing that in the end senior scientists must take responsibility for resolving differences of opinions using established science policies and their best professional judgment."

EPA staff from across the Agency have been working for a number of years on the science that led to the proposed endangerment finding. Much of the underlying information and analysis for the proposed endangerment finding had been included in the July 2008 *Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions under the Clean Air Act* (73 FR 44353) and the supporting Technical Support Document in the docket. Earlier this year, the Office of Air and Radiation also convened a cross-office workgroup to develop the endangerment proposal. This workgroup received input from across the Agency, including the National Center for Environmental Economics. I am confident that the proposed endangerment finding reflects the best available science and was developed through careful deliberation as part of a robust internal process. EPA is currently considering the comments it received as part of a 60-day public comment period and in response to the two public meetings it held on the proposal.

Please find enclosed responses to your questions. Thank you again for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Tom Dickerson in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at 202-564-3638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lisa P. Jackson', written over the printed name.

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Enclosure

Question 1: Did you issue a directive or instructions to any agency staff that research or analyses relating to the endangerment finding by agency staff cease?

Response: No.

Question 2: Have you or the EPA received any instructions from the Administration, including the Executive Office of the President, to cease any ongoing agency inquiry and analyses relating to the proposed endangerment finding?

Response: No.

Question 3: Have you issued any direction to the NCEE office not to conduct any further analyses relating to the proposed endangerment finding?

Response: No.

Question 4: Has EPA been seeking to reduce the budget of the NCEE office within EPA?

Response: EPA's FY 2010 request contains an increase to the NCEE budget over the FY 2009 enacted level.

Question 5: If yes, given the importance of economic analysis to rulemaking, including the importance of cost-benefit analyses, why has the NCEE budget been reduced?

Response: Not applicable. Please see the response to Question 4.

Question 6: Please provide all staff analyses submitted by the NCEE to the OAR relating to the proposed endangerment

Response: EPA's proposed endangerment finding is based on rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific analyses conducted by scientists in the United States and around the world. In addition, the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) convened a workgroup to develop the proposed endangerment finding. As one of the contributors to this effort, EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE) within the Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation (OPEI) had several staff members reviewing the proposed endangerment finding. It is standard Agency practice for an office to submit a consolidated set of comments, rather than multiple sets from individual employees within an office. The

comments OPEI submitted on behalf of that entire office were influenced, in part, by the staff-level analysis and comments prepared by Dr. Alan Carlin and others in NCEE. EPA is unable to provide the comments submitted by EPA offices such as NCEE to the OAR workgroup because they are part of the internal agency deliberative process regarding the development of the endangerment finding, which is ongoing. EPA also solicited public comments and held two public meetings on the proposal. EPA is currently considering the public comments it received on the proposed finding.

Question 7: Please provide the documents, including any draft analysis, prepared by Dr. Alan Carlin, as referenced in the aforementioned emails.

Response: EPA has already disclosed the document Dr. Alan Carlin prepared analyzing the draft of the endangerment finding EPA proposed in April 2009. As a matter of discretion, we are also disclosing two documents Dr. Carlin prepared and circulated in 2007 on an earlier draft of the proposed endangerment finding. A copy of this document is attached, as are copies of the previously released document for your convenience.

Question 8: Please provide all directives and information you supplied to agency employees, or the relevant office or department directors, concerning your process for collecting agency staff comments on the proposed endangerment finding.

Response: None.