

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Chairman David Schweikert (R-Ariz.)
Hearing on Ensuring Open Science at EPA**

Chairman Schweikert: I actually have fascination with the underlying science. And I want to try and do this as credibly as possible. Because this, in some ways this should be almost beyond the sometimes left right paradigm we engage in, this should be about facts.

How do you have a civil society when our leaders, our public don't trust our institutions anymore? We don't trust our government, we don't trust our agencies, we don't trust so much around us. A transparent, open government develops, hopefully, a faith with its population.

My great hope is, this being sort of a first step, is movement towards a level of transparency, where I don't care if you a group from the right or the left, or just someone from academia the ability in today's world... to take the data, to understand it, to have an opinion.

A transparent, open government develops, hopefully, a faith with its population. Can we head that direction?

There are ways to protect people's privacy, we do it every day.

My great hope here is we sort of move forward on H.R. 4012, that we are sort of building a precedence on how do I build public data for public policy, and public policy by egalitarian public data, where we all have the right to know what is underlying.

You are going to have to steep beyond confirmation bias. Don't think it (the data) is always going to say what you think it is going to say. There is bound to be times when the data sets may say the agency isn't going far enough. There may be other times it says when you stress the data, we need to be going with a different approach.

I believe the crowd does purify policy, and I hope we are going in that direction.

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