



April 20, 2018

AAAS Statement on EPA Administrator's Plan to Disallow Use of Scientific Evidence in Decision-Making

"We are very concerned with recent news reports that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has sent a proposed rule to the White House to soon end the use of scientific studies that have underlying data that is not publicly available. Epidemiological studies often contain patient information and must maintain individual privacy. Other studies rely on public and private-sector funding sources that may limit access to underlying data. The administrator's latest attempt to reject valid scientific evidence fundamentally mischaracterizes the way science is conducted and made available for decision-making. If put into practice, EPA could prohibit, or make it incredibly costly, for the agency to use a wide swath of high-quality scientific research. Despite the political rhetoric, there are existing federal guidelines that require access to the scientific information used for federal policies and regulations. This proposal appears to be an attempt to remove valid and relevant scientific evidence from the rule-making process."

– Rush Holt, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*, as well as *Science Translational Medicine*; *Science Signaling*; a digital, open-access journal, *Science Advances*; *Science Immunology*; and *Science Robotics*. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes nearly 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world. The nonprofit AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement, and more. For additional information about AAAS, see www.aaas.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Holt".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. T. E. 8".