Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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REP. WAXMAN AND REP. GORDON INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO STOP THE POLITICIZATION OF SCIENCE

WASHINGTON, DC — Citing numerous reports of political interference with science by the Bush Administration, Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, and Rep. Bart Gordon, Ranking Democrat on the House Science Committee, today introduced legislation to restore scientific integrity to federal research and policymaking.

"From abstinence education to the protection of endangered whales, the Bush Administration has twisted and distorted science to further a narrow political agenda," said Rep. Waxman. "We need to act now to protect the scientific integrity of federal agencies."

"Scientific progress occurs when we foster the open exchange of ideas and information," said Rep. Gordon. "We must maintain a culture of openness and freedom of inquiry if we are to maintain the preeminent status of this nation in the world scientific community, develop new technologies, and to safeguard our environment and public health."

The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act safeguards the federal government's sponsorship of research and its use in policymaking. The legislation would:

- Prohibit litmus tests based on political affiliation for scientific advisory committees;
- Block tampering with scientific analysis;
- Outlaw censorship of scientific reports;
- Stop dissemination of scientific information known to be false or misleading; and
- Extend whistleblower protections to federal employees who expose scientific manipulations.

Over the past four years, 48 Nobel Laureates, dozens of other distinguished scholars, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, and many other scientific journals and scientific organizations have objected to violations of scientific integrity under the Bush Administration.

The bill and more on the Administration's politicization of science are available at www.democrats.reform.house.gov and www.democrats.reform.house.gov/features/politics_and_science/index.htm.