



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

OFFICE OF  
MISSION SUPPORT

Ms. Genna Reed  
Senior Analyst  
Center for Science and Democracy  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1825 K Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20006

**Re: Diversifying Federal Advisory Committees**

Dear Ms. Reed,

Thank you for your letter dated April 28, 2021, regarding “Diversifying Federal Advisory Committees.” The Center for Science and Democracy, along with numerous other scientific, professional, and academic organizations are writing in support of President Biden’s January 27, 2021, memorandum on “*Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking.*”

Administrator Regan has made environmental justice and diversity top priorities for EPA. On March 1, 2021, EPA conducted a survey of the Designated Federal Officers (DFOs) from the agency's six scientific and two technological federal advisory committees in response to the President's Memorandum. The EPA has six scientific committees: the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee; the Board of Scientific Counselors; the Science Advisory Board; the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel; the Human Studies Review Board; and the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals. The EPA has two technological committees: the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Advisory Board and the Environmental Financial Advisory Board.

The EPA recognizes that it is critical that all federal advisory committees leverage the available tools and resources to ensure a diverse pool of applicants. EPA agrees that this will contribute to a broader, more diverse representation on science advisory committees and will lead to more comprehensive and equitable decision making at the federal level. In EPA’s response to OMB, the agency encouraged OMB and GSA to promote federal-wide Federal Advisory Committee Act partnerships similar to programs that the EPA has adopted for recruiting its federal workforce. These include: Memorandum of Understanding with minority scientific, academic, professional institutions, and minority talent initiatives that can help mentor and grow future federal committee members; mandatory federal-wide training for the DFOs on developing more inclusive outreach plans; and, establishing standards on the diversity criteria with which DFOs collect information, similar to OPM forms SF-181: Ethnicity and Race Identification and SF-256: Self-Identification of Disability.

On behalf of Administrator Regan, I thank you for your insightful and valuable recommendations. We will take them into consideration as we strengthen the diversity in our scientific and technological federal advisory committees.

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please contact Daniel Coogan, acting director, Office of Resources and Business Operations at (202) 564-1862 or [coogan.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:coogan.daniel@epa.gov) or Robbie Young-Mackall, acting director, Federal Advisory Committee Management Division at (202) 566-2174 or [young-mackall@robbersena@epa.gov](mailto:young-mackall@robbersena@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Donna J. Vizian  
Acting Assistant Administrator