

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Restoring Science, Protecting the Public

The coronavirus pandemic has laid bare how the nation suffers when science and its role in governance is sidelined or eliminated. A successful emergence from the pandemic will require the development of scientific capacity and safeguards that improve the nation's ability to protect people's health, root out corruption, and improve our quality of life. This is especially true for communities that bear disproportionate impacts from public health and environmental threats.

Support for the role of science in policymaking—and for government conducting and sharing science on behalf of the people—is strong across the political spectrum. Making independent science a core pillar of an agenda for the next presidential term has the support of good-government, public health, environmental, consumer, and human and civil rights advocates representing tens of millions of Americans of varying political affiliations.

There is an urgent need to rebuild trust in the ability of government institutions to provide reliable information and make decisions in the public interest. This series of memos provides concrete steps the administration can take—without significant expenditures—to make government more effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable. The memos outline how executive branch leaders in the next presidential term can:

- Allow government scientists to pursue their research free from political interference
- Guarantee public and policymaker access to federal government experts and the data they collect
- Establish better ways for the government to receive science advice
- Ensure federal agency leaders are qualified, ethical, and accountable
- Invigorate the role of independent science in the regulatory process
- Ensure federal agencies have the necessary resources to use and produce science to meet their public service missions
- Promote the independence of federal government science and scientists
- Help civil servants and contractors feel safe when reporting agency shortcomings

MEMOS

- Agency Scientific Independence
 - Data Collection and Dissemination
 - Federal Advisory Committees
 - Federal Personnel Policy
 - Regulatory Reform and Science
 - Restoring Strength to Scientific Agencies
 - Scientific Communications
 - Whistleblower Protection
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