

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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March 8, 2010

Dr. Ralph Cicerone
President
National Academy of Sciences
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

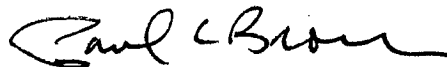
Dear Dr. Cicerone:

I was startled to learn that emails obtained by the Washington Times showed climate scientists at the National Academies of Science advocating “an outlandishly aggressively partisan approach” to reacting to recent criticisms of the IPCC and the work done by the University of East Anglia’s Climate Research Unit.¹

While these communications may not evidence an official position of the Academies, I am troubled by their harsh and purely political tone. Congress and the American people place an immense amount of trust in the Academies to provide scientific advice absent any political agenda. As a Federally chartered corporation charged with providing policymakers independent advice on matters of science, use of NAS resources for the purposes of political advocacy threatens to undermine that trust, and with it, the Academies’ reputation as a provider of unbiased, objective analysis of scientific information. The recent erosion of public confidence in scientific advice provided by climate scientists is, in part, a result of revelation of stealth political advocacy by a select few. I fear that confidence in the entire discipline will suffer as a result of these actions.

With this in mind, it is my sincere hope that you will do everything in your capacity as President of the National Academies of Science to ensure that the advice provided by the institution, and its members, reflects not only the best science, but also guidance absent political advocacy. The Academies are an invaluable resource to the nation. I hope you will work with me to make certain that future work will be devoid of partisan rhetoric.

Sincerely,



REP. PAUL BROUN, M.D.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Investigations and Oversight

¹ Dinan, Stephan. “Climate scientists to fight back at skeptics.” The Washington Times. March 5, 2010.

cc: REP. BRAD MILLER
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Investigations and Oversight.