

COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY**  
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)**

*Markup of*

- **H.R. 1030**, *the Secret Science Reform Act and H.R.*
- **H.R. 1029**, *the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015*

**Chairman Smith:** H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act, is a short, three page, common-sense bill. It requires that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to base its regulations on public data. A similar bill was introduced in the last Congress by former Environment Subcommittee Chairman David Schweikert and passed the House with bipartisan support.

The days of just trust me “science” are long past. In our modern information age, federal regulations should be based only upon data that is available for independent review.

I trust, we can all agree that the government should rely on the best available science. And that sunshine is the best disinfectant. Our freedoms are best protected when citizens are informed. However, the EPA does not always adhere to these practices. For example, nearly every major air quality regulation from this Administration has been justified by studies with data that even the EPA hasn’t seen.

This means that the government’s claims about the costs and benefits of its mandates can’t be independently tested by unbiased experts. This includes the President’s recent plan to regulate our entire electricity system. The proposal could kill thousands of jobs and increase electricity costs for everyone.

Without independent access to the data used by the Administration to justify its plan, it is impossible for Americans to know if this is the best or only path forward. It’s hard to have a reasoned policy debate without all the facts.

Protecting the lands we farm and the water we drink is a goal we all share. But if policies aren’t crafted carefully, unachievable standards result in economic hardship, stalled new road projects and burdened local governments. This is why independent review should be required. Unfortunately, EPA clearly sees transparency and accountability as a threat. Speaking before the National Academy of Sciences, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said that her Agency needed to keep the science “from those not qualified to analyze it.”

But the public deserves better, and this Administration promised more. In 2012, the President’s Science Advisor testified that “Absolutely, the data on which regulatory decisions...are based should be...public.”

Americans agree. Studies and data used to make federal government decisions should be public. Federal regulations should be based on the best available science, and that’s what this bill guarantees.

For those concerned about regulations that are already on the books, the bill is not retroactive. It applies only to new, future regulations. To further clarify this point, this bill now specifically explains that current laws are not threatened in any way by these new public access provisions.

The Secret Science Reform Act requires the EPA to base its decisions on information to which all scientists have access. This will allow the EPA to focus its limited resources on the highest quality science that all researchers can examine. And this will promote sound science and restore confidence in the EPA decision-making process.

The legislation provides an opportunity for the type of transparent and accountable government the American people want and deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support the Secret Science Reform Act.

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