

October 17, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, and Congressman Tonko:

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) writes in support of the Scientific Integrity Act (H.R.1709) and thanks you for your leadership on this important legislation and for reporting it favorably out of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology today. We are particularly pleased that the bill aims to safeguard government scientists' freedom to publish their findings in peer-reviewed professional and scholarly journals. AAP represents the leading book, journal, and education publishers in the United States on matters of law and policy. As longtime champions of the advancement of science and the dissemination of knowledge, we are grateful for your efforts to ensure that scientists are able to communicate the results of their work.

Disseminating results is a key part of the scientific process, and publishers play an essential role in empowering scientists to do this. AAP's members organize and execute the world's leading peer review process, producing scholarly articles that are the gold standard in quality and reliability, and preserving the integrity of the scholarly record. Our members also invest in distribution platforms and cutting-edge technology to enable researchers and other readers to efficiently get the information they need from scholarly articles, and to enable scientists to communicate and collaborate in new and innovative ways.

Crucially, publishers can only contribute to the dissemination of knowledge if authors are allowed to publish their writings in the first place. As such, AAP has long defended publishers' and authors' First Amendment rights and advocated for the freedom to publish across all literary disciplines, including in scientific and technical fields. By recognizing the critical role that publication plays in disseminating scientific and technical findings, and by protecting government scientists' freedom to publish their work, the Scientific Integrity Act takes an important step forward in promoting the advancement of science.

Thank you again for your tireless work on this legislation. If we can be of any assistance on this matter, I hope you will let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Bar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" and the last name "Bar" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew Barblan  
Vice President, Public Policy  
Association of American Publishers