

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The undersigned organizations are writing to strongly encourage you to nominate highly-qualified individuals to serve as Director and in other key roles in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). These important positions have remained vacant since your inauguration and we urge you to fill them as quickly as possible.

As part of the Executive Office of the President, OSTP is a crucial organization that directs Federal efforts across all science agencies in setting science and technology budgets and other priorities. Its leadership plays an important role in enhancing education; advancing knowledge; improving human health and saving lives; strengthening national security; and growing our economy.

In recent years, for example, OSTP has been directly involved in the response to the Zika outbreak; promoting cybersecurity; addressing U.S. infrastructure needs with geospatial data; combatting antibiotic resistance; developing a robust U.S. space policy; and supporting advanced manufacturing. Given the many challenges facing our nation, your Administration would greatly benefit from a cadre of experts advising on these topics and others.

We applaud you for making workforce development a priority since you took office in January. As you are probably aware, over one-fifth of American jobs require a high level of knowledge in at least one STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) field. By appointing strong leaders in OSTP, your Administration can focus on these fast-growing sectors and augment our nation's standing as a leader in global innovation.

All of your predecessors since Eisenhower – Democrats and Republicans alike – have been well-served by science advisors who were highly respected by their peers, and we hope you will select someone of the caliber of these recent OSTP Directors as your Science Advisor. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss OSTP appointments with your staff.

Sincerely,

Academy of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research
American Anthropological Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physics Teachers

American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public & Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science – Technology Centers
Brandeis University
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Ecological Society of America
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Institute of Mathematical Statistics
Michigan State University
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Communication Association
National Ground Water Association
National Science Teachers Association
OSA – The Optical Society

Penn State University
Psychological Society of America
Population Association of America
Seismological Society of America
Social Psychology Network
Soil Science Society of America
STEM Education Coalition
TODOS: Mathematics for All
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
University of Oregon