

Resolution to Protect Scientific Advisory Boards

WHEREAS the 1972 Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat 770) authorizes

Federal governmental agencies to establish advisory committees and boards to assist them in making policy decisions and establishing regulations;

WHEREAS at the end of the Obama Administration there were around 1,000 committees, including about 200 Scientific Advisory Boards (SABs) in the federal government working with agencies such as the EPA, FDA, USDA, and NOAA;

WHEREAS input of impartial scientific experts on these SABs helps the government to make better-informed evidence-based policy decisions and regulations, by advising agencies on what current science says about the consequences of policy decisions and regulations;

WHEREAS the current President issued an executive order in June 2019 to reduce the number of federal advisory committees, including SABs, by one third [1] since 2017 has postponed or canceled meetings of SABs, dismissed experienced experts, and changed the standards for appointing expert members of the SABs to allow appointment of individuals regardless of their scientific subject expertise, and in some cases SABs have been reduced in their authority or completely disbanded [2,3,4];

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the WSDCC ask our legislative delegations to request that the Government Accountability Office assess whether our federal agencies are currently carrying out the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 appropriately and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the WSDCC, ask our legislative delegations to hold Congressional hearings on the condition of the SABs with the goal of ensuring that the national and public interest are preserved;

References:

[1]<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/danvergano/trump-cuts-advisory-panels>, June 15, 2019.

[2]Sidelining Science on Air Pollution Standards: UCS Fights Back. In <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2019/05/Catalyst-Spring-2019.pdf>, page 7.

[3][https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/s3fpublic/Scientific%20Organizations%20State](https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/s3fpublic/Scientific%20Organizations%20Statement%20on%20Science%20and%20Government_6.27.2017.pdf)ment%20on%20Science%20and%20Government_6.27.2017.pdf

[4]https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/15/climate/epa-advisory-panels-gao-report.html?et_rid=247858142&et_cid=2916523

Submitted by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its February 2, 2020 meeting in Vancouver, Washington. (Date Submitted 8/14/2019)

This Resolution was **PASSED** by the WSDCC on February 2nd, 2020