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To: Mabel E. Echols OMB_Peer_Review/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Peer Review rules

Dear Mr. Bolton,

I urge you to delay the issuing of your new proposed "peer review" rules. I also urge you to open up this process to the scientific community for evaluation and to craft a more workable process.

While I am not totally familiar with all the proposed rules, it seems very wrong to exclude scientists who receive federal research money from peer review panels. At the same time I can see NO justification for allowing scientists from regulated industries to participate. Even a casual perusal of statements from tobacco industry "scientists" over the last 30 years would give any reasonable person pause at this proposal.

I also find it hypocritical of OMB to on the one hand rail at the agencies about "cost-benefit analysis" regarding regulations and then on the other to not bother to even address the costs of the proposed peer review rule.

In my view there are enough questions about the proposed rules to justify postponing implementation and to seek further input from the scientific community.

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