



For Immediate Release
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Statement of Vice Chair Frank D. Lucas (R-Okla.)

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*

Vice Chair Lucas: I thank Chairman Smith and former Environment Subcommittee Chairs, Harris, Stewart, and Schweikert for their hard work on this important legislation.

H.R. 1029, The Science Advisory Board Reform Act, ensures the best experts are free to undertake a balanced and open review of regulatory science.

The Science Advisory Board was created in 1978, to provide independent expert advice on scientific and technical information that justifies federal regulations and important policy decisions.

But the original law had very few details and in recent years, shortcomings with the process have arisen. There has been limited public participation, EPA interference with expert advice, and potential conflicts of interest. If the EPA undermines the Board's independence or prevents it from providing advice to Congress, the valuable advice these experts can provide is wasted.

As we rely more and more on science to help inform policy decisions, it becomes critical that the Board is free to function as intended. The Board's independence must be strengthened so that the public can have confidence policy decisions are not hi-jacked under the guise of science.

It's time to update the law to restore scientific integrity to the process and independence to the Board. My bill would strengthen the important reforms started in the Farm Bill this summer.

"The Science Advisory Board Reform Act" addresses the remaining shortcomings by guaranteeing a well-balanced expert panel, increasing transparency, and encouraging public participation. This empowers the experts to provide meaningful and unbiased scientific advice.

The bill also ensures that uncertainties in scientific conclusions are clearly communicated and allows the expert panel to focus on the science, rather than partisan policy debates.

This legislation recognizes the important role science should play in our policy debates and provides safeguards to give the public confidence in science. It restores the SAB as an important defender of scientific integrity.

These common sense reforms will make EPA's decisions more credible and balanced.

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