



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Office of the President

April 19, 2018

Dear Colleague:

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has a responsibility to provide independent, evidence-based advice to the nation on matters related to science and technology, a mission that is ever more necessary in a world of alternative facts. As president of the NAS, I am keenly aware that scientific evidence is being ignored or misinterpreted, which is leading to policy decisions that are not in the best interests of the nation and world. Over the last several months the Academies' vital examination of the potential short and long-term health effects of surface mining in West Virginia has been halted. In addition, the federal government has reportedly censored terms such as "evidence-based" and "science-based" among others, and has shuttered programs tasked with finding ways to reduce children's health risks from environmental factors. In order to promote our mission and to ensure that science has a strong and effective voice, we depend on support from donors like you. Please join me in making a gift to the NAS annual fund and help strengthen the Academy to better engage the public and policy makers with evidence-based science. Participation matters!

Your philanthropy allows the NAS to improve science literacy and communication with the public. Thanks to the support of donors like you, we are working to increase the public's knowledge about science and its role in decision-making. Recently, the NAS launched a new public engagement initiative that will promote evidence-based decision making on issues that have significant relevance to communities and in which science is an important factor. The new LabX program (the successor to the Koshland Science Museum), will engage audiences through a combination of online platforms and face-to-face group activities at venues in Washington, D.C., and at other locations around the country. It is too easy to forget the real way that science and technology can—and should—be applied to decisions that make meaningful differences in our lives. LabX inspires people to use science to solve problems in their communities, focusing in particular on engaging with young adults, to promote resilience, improve safety and security, and achieve other desirable outcomes.

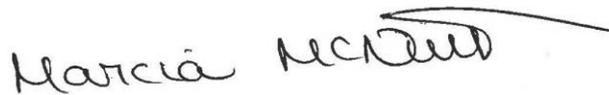
The Science Behind It is another initiative which is designed to provide brief, easily understood, evidence-based answers to 30 questions about science that the public considers most important. These one-page explanations will cover topics related to climate change, energy, health, natural hazards and natural resources, and will be presented in Q&A format with graphics, videos, and interactive quizzes.

Keeping with the themes of enhancing the vitality of the scientific enterprise, guiding public policy with science, and communicating the nature, values, and judgements of science to government and the public, I want to provide a brief update on the Ralph J. and Carol M. Cicerone Endowment for NAS Missions. Thanks to our members and friends, we are now nearly 95% of the way to our \$10

million goal for the Cicerone Endowment. May 31, 2018 is the deadline to qualify for matching funds from the Simons Foundation, so please consider an additional gift to the Cicerone Endowment this spring. Expanding the unrestricted portion of the NAS endowment is vitally important and if we reach that goal, the unrestricted endowment will increase nearly 20%.

Membership participation is frequently viewed as the most accurate indicator of an organization's vitality and is often considered by foundations and individuals when considering their own philanthropy. Please join me in supporting the NAS annual fund and help strengthen the Academy while giving science a strong voice to better engage the public and policy makers with evidence-based science. Your contribution at any level will truly make a difference—now and in the future. Thank you for your consideration, your leadership, and your essential role in the National Academy of Sciences and the scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia McNutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Marcia McNutt
President

P.S. I look forward to seeing you at the 155th NAS Annual Meeting that will take place from April 28th – May 1, 2018 here in Washington. You can register online and learn more about the meeting at www.nasonline.org/annualmeeting.