

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to promote transparency in science, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to promote transparency in science, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Establishing Gold
5 Standard Science Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY IN SCIENCE.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—The Environmental Research,
8 Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of

1 1978 (Public Law 95–155; 91 Stat. 1257) is amended by
2 inserting before section 2 the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 1A. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “In this Act, the terms ‘Gold Standard Science’, ‘sci-
5 entific information’, ‘scientific misconduct’, and ‘weight of
6 scientific evidence’ have the meanings given such terms
7 in Executive Order 14303 (90 Fed. Reg. 22601), signed
8 on May 23, 2025, and entitled ‘Restoring Gold Standard
9 Science’.”.

10 (b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPARENCY.—
11 Subsection (h) of section 8 of the Environmental Re-
12 search, Development, and Demonstration Authorization
13 Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4365) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “The Board shall make” and in-
15 serting “**(1)** The Board shall make”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraphs:

18 “(2) No federally registered lobbyist may be ap-
19 pointed to any of the following:

20 “(A) The Board.

21 “(B) A committee or investigative panel under
22 subsection (e) regarding any of the following mat-
23 ters:

24 “(i) A matter for which such lobbyist is so
25 registered.

1 “(ii) A matter in which such lobbyist has
2 a direct financial interest.

3 “(3) No individual appointed to the Board or a com-
4 mittee or investigative panel under subsection (e) may par-
5 ticipate in an advisory activity—

6 “(A) that directly involves the review or evalua-
7 tion of the work of such individual;

8 “(B) in which such individual has a direct affili-
9 ation with, or represents an entity that has a direct
10 financial interest in, an outcome of the Board’s advi-
11 sory activity on the matter at issue, or that directly
12 involves the review or evaluation of such interest or
13 activity, as the case may be; or

14 “(C) in which such individual’s spouse, partner,
15 child, parent, or other immediate family member has
16 a direct affiliation with, or represents an entity that
17 has a direct financial interest in, an outcome of the
18 Board’s advisory activity on the matter at issue, or
19 that directly involves the review or evaluation of
20 such interest or activity, as the case may be.

21 “(4) An individual described in paragraph (3) who
22 is a member of the Board or appointed to a committee
23 or investigative panel under subsection (e) on, before, or
24 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph shall
25 promptly submit to the Administrator a formal recusal

1 agreement that includes information relating to an identi-
2 fication of each matter of the Board or such committee
3 or investigative panel, as the case may be, from which such
4 individual is so recused, and the Administrator shall
5 promptly make such recusal agreement publicly avail-
6 able.”.

7 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Subsection (i) of section 8
8 of the Environmental Research, Development, and Dem-
9 onstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4365)
10 is amended—

11 (1) in the heading, by striking “REPORT” and
12 inserting “REPORTS”;

13 (2) by striking “The Administrator shall annu-
14 ally report” and inserting “**(1)** The Administrator
15 shall annually report”;

16 (3) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by add-
17 ing at the end the following new sentence: “The Ad-
18 ministrator shall include in each such report any im-
19 mediate disclosures under paragraph (4), and make
20 each such report publicly available.”; and

21 (4) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraphs:

23 “(2) Upon being appointed, each member of the
24 Board, and each appointee to a committee or investigative
25 panel under subsection (e), shall submit to the Adminis-

1 trator a written report, standardized by the Adminis-
2 trator, disclosing the following with respect to such mem-
3 ber or appointee, as the case may be:

4 “(A) All financial relationships and interests,
5 including grants, contracts, cooperative agreements,
6 or other financial assistance, that satisfy any of the
7 following requirements:

8 “(i) Are with a public or private entity rel-
9 evant to the Board’s advisory activity for the
10 five-year period prior to the date of such ap-
11 pointment.

12 “(ii) Might pose a conflict of interest with
13 respect to the Board’s advisory activity.

14 “(B) All professional activities and public state-
15 ments that are relevant to the Board’s advisory ac-
16 tivity for the five-year period prior to the date of
17 such appointment, including all representational
18 work, expert testimony, and contract work, and an
19 identification of each party for which such work or
20 testimony, as the case may be, was undertaken or
21 provided.

22 “(C) Any participation, including any direct re-
23 lationships or interests, in activities paid for by
24 grants or funds administered by the Environmental
25 Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture,

1 the Department of Energy, the Department of Com-
2 merce, the Department of Transportation, or other
3 relevant agencies, with respect to matters that are
4 relevant to the Board's advisory activity for the five-
5 year period prior to the date of such appointment.

6 “(D) Any participation in the National Acad-
7 emies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine or an
8 entity thereof, including any direct relationships or
9 interests, or activities, paid for by grants or funds
10 administered by the National Academies or such en-
11 tity thereof.

12 “(3) Each member of the Board, and each appointee
13 to a committee or investigative panel under subsection (e),
14 shall annually submit to the Administrator a written re-
15 port, standardized by the Administrator, disclosing any
16 updates to the matters described in paragraph (2), includ-
17 ing any immediate updates under paragraph (4).

18 “(4) Notwithstanding the annual updates under
19 paragraph (3), each member of the Board, and each ap-
20 pointee to a committee or investigative panel under sub-
21 section (e), shall immediately submit to the Administrator
22 a written report, standardized by the Administrator, dis-
23 closing any financial relationships or interests, including
24 grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other finan-
25 cial assistance, entered into with or received from any pub-

1 lic or private entity since the date of the submission of
2 such an annual update that are relevant to the Board’s
3 advisory activity.

4 “(5) The Administrator shall annually submit to the
5 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
6 House of Representatives and the Committee on Environ-
7 ment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the com-
8 position and activities of each committee or investigative
9 panel under subsection (e), including a summary of the
10 information required under paragraphs (2) through (4).

11 “(6) A disclosure pursuant to paragraph (2), a pro-
12 fessional activity or public statement referred to in sub-
13 paragraph (B) of such paragraph, participation described
14 in subparagraph (C) or (D) of such paragraph, profes-
15 sional expertise, prior research or publication, or prior
16 service with respect to an entity that has a direct financial
17 interest in an outcome of the Board’s advisory activity
18 does not, in itself, pose a conflict of interest with respect
19 to the Board’s advisory activity or disqualify a member
20 of the Board from such membership or an appointee to
21 a committee or investigative panel under subsection (e)
22 from such appointment.”.

23 (d) ADVICE, COMMENTS, AND CONDUCT.—Section 8
24 of the Environmental Research, Development, and Dem-

1 onstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4365)
2 is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by adding at the end
4 the following new sentence: “Such advice and com-
5 ments shall include a statement that indicates the
6 Board based such advice and comments on Gold
7 Standard Science and the weight of scientific evi-
8 dence.”;

9 (2) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) by striking “avail” and inserting
11 “carry out the following:
12 “(1) Avail”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
14 paragraph:

15 “(2) Base such advice and comments on Gold
16 Standard Science and the weight of scientific evi-
17 dence.”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 sections:

20 “(j) IDEAS AND VIEWPOINTS.—In carrying out this
21 section, the Administrator and the Chairperson of the
22 Board shall seek to ensure the following:

23 “(1) The open exchange of ideas.

1 “(2) The consideration of different and dis-
2 senting viewpoints across disparate disciplines and
3 in the same discipline.

4 “(3) A balanced range of scientific expertise,
5 technical perspectives, and viewpoints regarding the
6 matter at issue.

7 “(k) SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT.—

8 “(1) ALLEGATION.—A member of the Board, or
9 an appointee to a committee or investigative panel
10 under subsection (e), may allege to the Adminis-
11 trator that another such member or appointee, as
12 the case may be, has committed scientific mis-
13 conduct with respect to the Board or such committee
14 or investigative panel, as the case may be.

15 “(2) INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION.—
16 Upon receipt of an allegation of scientific mis-
17 conduct under paragraph (1), the Administrator
18 shall investigate such allegation and determine
19 whether such alleged misconduct was committed.

20 “(3) REMOVAL.—If the Administrator makes a
21 determination in the affirmative under paragraph
22 (2), the following shall apply:

23 “(A) The Chairperson shall remove the
24 member of the Board, or the appointee to a
25 committee or investigative panel under sub-

1 section (e), with respect to whom such deter-
2 mination applies.

3 “(B) Such removed member or appointee,
4 as the case may be, may not after the date of
5 such removal be appointed to the Board or such
6 committee or investigative panel, as the case
7 may be.”.

8 (e) SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY TRAINING PROGRAM.—
9 The Environmental Research, Development, and Dem-
10 onstration Authorization Act of 1978 is amended by in-
11 serting after section 6 (42 U.S.C. 4363 note) the following
12 new section:

13 **“SEC. 6A. SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY TRAINING PROGRAM.**

14 “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this section, the Administrator of the Environ-
16 mental Protection Agency shall establish a scientific integ-
17 rity training program to inform each officer or employee
18 of the Agency of the following:

19 “(1) The requirements of such officer or em-
20 ployee, as the case may be, with respect to the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(A) Scientific research.

23 “(B) The publication of such research and
24 scientific information.

25 “(2) Scientific misconduct.

1 “(3) Gold Standard Science and the weight of
2 scientific evidence.”.