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AAAS CEO Rush Holt Statement on Federal Scientists and Public Communication

“We are concerned about reports that federal agencies – including the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency – have issued directives to staff that may silence the voices of scientific researchers and others working for the federal government. Our hope is that this is a temporary measure put into place until the new government agency heads are confirmed by the Senate. Many federal agencies have existing scientific integrity policies that prohibit political interference in the public dissemination of scientific findings. As the AAAS Council stated in 2006: Censorship, intimidation, or other restriction on the freedom of scientists employed or funded by governmental organizations to communicate their unclassified scientific findings and assessments not only to each other but also to policymakers and to the public is inimical to the advance of science and its appropriate application in the policy domain.”

-- Rush Holt, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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