

## *Science & Technology Advice for the New Administration*

Dear Senator Obama:

The next President of the United States will face a wide range of domestic and international challenges, from financial and regulatory reform to healthcare and rising energy costs, from global climate change to ensuring U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. These challenges share one thing in common: long-term solutions that will be impossible without groundbreaking scientific and technological advances. It is therefore critical that the next President seek out and rely upon sound scientific and technological advice *early* and *often* in the new Administration.

Your responses to the *Science Debate 2008* questions reflect your acknowledgment of the important role that science will play in a new Administration. With this in mind, it is essential to quickly appoint a science advisor who is a nationally respected leader with the appropriate scientific, management and policy skills necessary for this critically important role.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations representing the business, education and scientific communities urge you, if you are elected President, to appoint your White House Science Advisor by January 20, so this individual can participate immediately in coordinating relevant policy and personnel decisions relating to science and technology.

We further urge that the next President give the science advisor the title of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and assign the position a cabinet rank, the same status currently given to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Trade Representative.

The next President must lead our country in addressing the national issues of concern to us all. To do so effectively, science and technology must be part of the solution. Putting a science advisor in place early, and providing this individual with adequate stature and authority within the White House, will help the new President effectively address the challenges we face.

Sincerely,



**Alan I. Leshner**  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Association for the Advancement of Science



**Robert M. Berdahl**  
President  
Association of American Universities



**Deborah L. Wince-Smith**  
President  
Council on Competitiveness



**David M. Abshire**  
President  
Center for the Study of the Presidency



**The Honorable John Edward Porter**  
Chair, National Academies Committee on  
Ensuring the Best Science and Technology  
Appointments in the New Administration



**Richard A. Meserve**  
President  
Carnegie Institution for Science

Academy of Radiology Research  
AeA (American Electronics Association)  
Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Astronautical Society  
American Astronomical Society  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Chemical Society  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geological Institute  
American Heart Association  
American Humanist Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
The American Society for Cell Biology  
American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Welding Society  
Americans for Cures Foundation  
Arizona State University  
ASME  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities  
Association of Environmental Engineering & Science Professors (AEESP)  
Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
Battelle  
Botanical Society of America  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology  
CAMR - Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research  
Carnegie Institution for Science  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Carnegie Observatories  
Case Western Reserve University  
Center for Inquiry  
Center for the Study of the Presidency  
Chemical Heritage Foundation  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation  
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research  
Colorado State University  
Columbia University  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc.  
Cornell University  
Council on Competitiveness  
Council on Governmental Relations  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Crop Science Society of America

CSU Channel Islands  
 Department of Pediatrics, Saint Louis University  
 Desert Research Institute, Nevada System of Higher Education  
 Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative North America  
 Duke University  
 Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
 Earthquake Engineering Research Institute  
 Ecological Society of America  
 Environmental Mutagen Society  
 Emory University  
 The FAIR Foundation  
 Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
 FasterCures  
 Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences  
 Federation of Materials Societies  
 Florida State University  
 Friends of the Earth  
 Fusion Power Associates  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Harvard University  
 IEEE-USA  
 Illinois Science Council  
 Institute of Food Technologists  
 Johns Hopkins Institutions  
 Joint Ocean Commission Initiative  
 Kettering University  
 Kids That Care Pediatric & Cancer Fund  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 Lipid Sciences, Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
 Manhattanville College  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Materials Research Society  
 Michigan Society for Medical Research  
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania  
 NASULGC, A Public University Association  
 National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
 National Association of Marine Laboratories  
 National Center for Science Education, Inc.  
 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
 National MS Society New England Chapter  
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
 National Postdoctoral Association  
 National Science Teachers Association  
 National Space Society  
 Natural Science Collections Alliance  
 New York Medical College  
 New York University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northwestern University  
 Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine  
 Penn State University  
 Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc. (PPSI)  
 Population Association of America  
 Research Corporation  
 Research!America  
 Rockefeller University  
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
 The Science Coalition  
 Science Debate 2008  
 Skidaway Institute of Oceanography  
 Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
 Society for Neuroscience  
 Society for Research in Child Development  
 Society for the Study of Reproduction  
 Society for Women's Health Research  
 Soil Science Society of America  
 SPARC  
 Stanford University  
 State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)  
 State University of New York  
 Stony Brook University  
 Student Society for Stem Cell Research (SSSCR)  
 Syracuse University  
 Teratology Society

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise Council  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
University at Buffalo  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research  
University of California Office of the President  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Central Florida  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Minnesota  
University of Michigan  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of Southern California  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution