

# **Oppose *H.R. 1430, the Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act (HONEST) of 2017***

**Bottom Line:** Undermines the science that EPA can use in their work, and ultimately, makes it easier for industry to pollute in this country.

## **What Does H.R. 1430 Do?**

Republicans claim that H.R. 1430 increases EPA's transparency and accountability by ensuring that its regulations are based on public data that can be verified and reproduced. In reality, H.R. 1430 would prevent EPA from functioning effectively and using the most relevant scientific data. Any effort to limit the scope of science that can be considered by EPA does not strengthen scientific integrity, but undermines it.

## **Reasons to Oppose H.R. 1430**

EPA relies on peer-reviewed scientific research from a variety of institutions as the backbone of their mission to protect public health and the environment. These research studies often involve personal health information and other confidential data. Because this data is legally protected from disclosure, EPA would be forced to ignore this valuable research.

H.R. 1430 "attempts" to protect any sensitive data that EPA is in possession of by requiring the EPA to redact any confidential or personally identifiable information before it is made publically available. However, the bill then says that this sensitive data can be accessed by anyone who the EPA Administrator deems worthy to access this confidential information.

**Halts Action, Harms Public Health** –H.R. 1430 allocates \$1 million per year to the make the data from 25,000 research studies publically available. In 2015, CBO estimated that implementing the predecessor of this bill would cost \$1 billion over four years. The result—EPA's work grinds to a halt and the health of Americans and the environment are put at risk.

**Harms Future Research** - Researchers may have difficulty getting individuals to participate in the types of studies that are necessary to understand air and water quality issues due to a fear that their medical records could be made public at the discretion of the EPA Administrator.

**Industry Manipulated Data** – If EPA cannot use peer-reviewed scientific research, industry-funded studies and data intended to bias the body of scientific evidence regarding a specific issue would become the bulk of what EPA is allowed to consider.

**Increased Litigation and Delayed Health Protections** - All of these issues increase the likelihood of litigation because EPA's actions would be based on inadequate and/or incomplete science leaving any regulations open to legal challenge, which would delay the implementation of important public health protections.

## **Who Opposes H.R. 1430**

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- American Association for Justice
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Association of Geographers
- American Geophysical Union
- American Geosciences Institute
- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- American Lung Association
- American Meteorological Society
- American Public Health Association
- American Society of Agronomy
- American Sociological Association
- American Thoracic Society
- Association of American Universities
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Brown university
- Clean Water Action
- Consortium for Ocean Leadership
- Crop Science Society of America
- Daily Kos
- Duke University
- Earth Action, Inc.
- Earthjustice

- Ecological Society of America
- Environmental Data & Governance Initiative
- Environmental Defense Action Fund
- Harvard University
- Health Care Without Harm
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)
- League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
- National Medical Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)
- Protect Our Winters (POW)
- Public Citizen
- Rachel Carson Council
- Safer Chemicals Healthy Families
- Sierra Club
- Soil Science Society of America
- The National Postdoctoral Association
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- University of California System
- University of Maine
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Toledo
- Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc.

**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson Urges a “NO” Vote on H.R. 1430**