



**AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH**

Science. Not Hype.

110 East 42nd St, Suite 1300 • New York, New York 10017-8532
Tel. (212) 362-7044 • Fax (212) 362-4919
www.acsh.org • acsh@acsh.org

Hank Campbell
President

April 28, 2017

Ms. Marguerite Chandler
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Chandler,

Are you sick of science being politicized?

Are you tired of anti-science activists hijacking the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and other government agencies to wage war on free markets, health care innovation and affordable energy?

And are you so fed up with what's being done to science that you're looking to fight back?

If so, I have some good news.

My organization, the **American Council on Science and Health (ACSH)**, is leading the fight to refute the vested interests in and out of government that profit from the politicization of science – even when it puts the public at risk.

Put simply, we play an indispensable role in defending the remarkable benefits of science in our lives – including fracking, vaccines, innovations in agriculture, such as GMOs, and the safe chemicals needed to make our lives better – against the scare campaigns waged by junk science promoters in and out of government.

Let me stress that ACSH is the only organization in the nation with the respect, the experience and the know-how to do this job.

I'll tell you more about that in a moment. But let me first introduce myself.

My name is Hank Campbell, and I serve as president of ACSH. We are a public policy group that was founded by real scientists and eminent medical professionals in 1978. We are constantly on the alert for scare campaigns based on political ideology and not sound science.

And right now, the ideologues buried deep inside federal regulatory agencies are fighting tooth and nail to keep their grip on power.

Their political agenda is being aided by the scientifically illiterate news media that spread anti-science propaganda on TV, in print and increasingly over the Internet.

I need to increase ACSH's ability to expose this anti-science assault to the nation. And for us to be able to wage this fight, **I must ask for your help today.**

With your support, ACSH will advance its mission to defend the American people from needless fear and bad public health policy resulting from the politicization of science. Let me stress that we are not a government agency. We do not receive one penny of taxpayer money.

This means we must rely on the generosity of concerned citizens like you to go toe to toe with the powerful special interests so numerous in and out of government.

Without our valued supporters making ACSH possible, no one would be there to debunk the health scams that take root in a nation increasingly ignorant of basic scientific knowledge – especially among educated people who should know better!

That's our constant challenge. Without ACSH, the anti-science fear mongers would go unchallenged and nobody would be there to defend against their constant barrage of misinformation.

The nucleus of ACSH, the secret of our effectiveness in combating the army of health frauds running rampant, is our board of more than 300 physicians, scientists and policy advisors – world-renowned experts in a wide variety of fields.

Our advisory board knows better than anyone that distorted and overstated scientific evidence – when used to promote public policy – threatens our personal freedom, as well as our personal health and well-being.

ACSH is the only group of its kind. No other organization pursues the full-time mission of debunking the utterly groundless propaganda being spread by legions of anti-science activists posing as “health experts.”

Our admirers even include some inside the new Trump administration.

Dr. Tom Price is the new secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, a vital position to ensuring the well-being of all Americans. He's also a long-time fan of ACSH, writing in 2009:

“As a medical doctor, I know that scientific claims have to be backed up by evidence – but that unscientific claims are made by many activist groups who want regulations or government spending that advances their own agenda. Luckily, there is one group that specializes in separating the science and the nonsense. That's the American Council on Science and Health.”

And our solid reputation has already helped to keep the new administration

accountable on a vitally important issue.

Recently, we pressured Donald Trump to back away from giving anti-vaccine extremist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., a newly created position in his administration.

In January, the two met at Trump Tower in New York City. Kennedy left the meeting claiming that the president-elect asked him to chair a new commission on the safety of vaccines.

This was alarming because candidate Donald Trump, just as Barack Obama did when he ran for president, made some anti-vaccine comments during the election campaign.

So Alex Berezow, Ph.D., a senior fellow at ACSH, and I responded with a column in the next day's *Wall Street Journal*.

Titled, "Ignore the Anti-Vaccine Hysteria, Mr. Trump," our piece tried to help Mr. Trump see reason and understand that Kennedy's conspiracy theories have no place in the White House:

- We pointed out that Kennedy had raised doubts about thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative used in some vaccines, which has been completely debunked as a cause of autism.
- The notion that vaccines cause autism was decisively rebutted in a 2002 study published by the *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- The study examined data on more than 537,000 children in Denmark, most of whom received the vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella. Researchers concluded that it provided strong evidence against the hypothesis that the MMR vaccination caused autism.
- Thimerosal has since been removed from all childhood vaccines – yet autism diagnoses continue to increase.

So it's clear that the preservative isn't to blame. But that hasn't stopped Kennedy from spewing kook-fringe garbage or exploiting his family name to continue waging a jihad against vaccinations.

Thanks to Kennedy and others, and their influence in anti-science states like California, Washington and Oregon, American children are more at risk today for infectious diseases than children were 50 years ago.

Alex and I ended our *Wall Street Journal* op-ed with, "Although it is encouraging that Mr. Trump is reaching out to people who did not support him, Mr. Kennedy belongs nowhere near the reins of power. We encourage the incoming president to follow his predecessor's lead – and stay far away from this nonsense."

Within two hours of our article appearing, the Trump team started distancing itself from Kennedy – denying that he had been offered any position.

Was it us alone, or was the new President already having second thoughts? Impossible to say. But the timing is impressive evidence of the influence you have when you donate to sound science.

Of course, this is just one example of the profound impact you can have fostering evidence-based policymaking through your generous support of ACSH.

Another example is our long running fight against the highly politicized – and wildly out-of-control – EPA.

This federal agency has become the enforcement arm of the climate change lobby in recent years.

Among the many examples I could cite include the EPA's lawless war on America's energy industry ... wasting \$72 billion of taxpayer money on green energy corporate welfare ... and giving the personal information of 80,000 law-abiding farmers and ranchers to environmental activists and eco-terrorists in clear violation of federal law.

One of the agency's favorite tactics is to invent environmental crises that don't exist – such as by hyping the risk people face from exposure to chemicals we all use every day.

And they engage in this fear mongering at a time when our nation's environment is cleaner than it's ever been, cleaner than any country on earth – and getting cleaner all the time thanks to the advancements of real science.

Yet the political activists embedded within the EPA don't care anything about science.

They only care about advancing their political agenda that aims to regulate every area of our lives and ultimately rob us of our freedoms.

That's why they're making people feel like harmful chemicals are lurking in their homes, in the clothes they wear, and in the foods they eat – ready to poison them at any moment.

At first, they were just making their dose-specific health guidelines and media-specific comparison values smaller to create the impression of increased “risk.” This was an ongoing process that has seen the officially “safe” levels of exposure go from the sensible to the completely ridiculous.

Especially for those “celebrity” chemicals like dioxins, PCBs, arsenic, lead, trichloroethylene and formaldehyde.

Then the alarmists at the EPA hatched another idea – doing away with the concept of dose, so they could try to scare us about chemicals like BPA and safe pesticides.

As you know, two of the most important factors in determining the effect a chemical will have on an organism is (1) the body weight of that organism, and (2) the frequency of exposure. That's why "dose" is typically expressed in milligrams of the substance per unit body weight or per frequency of exposure, such as mg/kg/day.

It is an established scientific fact that larger, longer-lived mammals like humans tend to be more resistant to the adverse effects of a given chemical than are smaller, shorter-lived mammals like rats.

Of course, this is because larger body weights effectively dilute the concentration of the chemical at the cellular level and slower ventilation rates effectively reduce the frequency of exposure.

What's more, longer-lived mammals like humans tend to have more efficient immune systems and other defense mechanisms – that's why they live longer.

This all proves that human exposure to a given chemical almost always has less of an adverse effect than it does on smaller animals. Compare, for example, the very different effect that a squirt of insecticide has on a roach than a human.

It's just a matter of common sense and reason.

Alerting Americans to the EPA's political agenda has been one of ACSH's biggest tasks recently.

But the stakes just got much, much higher.

Remember, I just said that the EPA is wildly out-of-control. That's no exaggeration.

Here's an example: EPA employees took the unprecedented step of calling U.S. Senators to demand they vote against confirming President Trump's nominee, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, to head their agency.

They resent that Pruitt has successfully challenged EPA rulings on scientific grounds, winning court cases when the agency has been guilty of using its power to, in effect, pass laws without involving Congress.

This open defiance of the new EPA administrator by the agency's employees shows how difficult it will be to tame this bureaucratic Leviathan. Not to mention undoing the carefully groomed alliances anti-science groups have created with career bureaucrats embedded there.

With your help today, ACSH can make sure Americans know about the political fight going on inside the EPA. You can bet this is a huge story the mainstream news media will slant in favor of the anti-science activists – and we must not let that happen!

Just as with the EPA, I urgently need your help to rid the FDA of anti-science political agendas.

The FDA has become so obsessed with longer approval periods that life-saving drugs are routinely denied to patients who need them.

This stems from ideologically-driven politicians making the approval process needlessly complex and expensive, in the misguided belief that this improves patient safety.

But, as any family who has seen a loved one denied the hope a new drug offers could tell you, the FDA's focus on "patient safety" when it is really just an expensive delay is both absurd and heartbreaking.

That's why ACSH champions streamlining the approval process so new pharmaceuticals can become available more quickly – instead of taking many years.

One possibility is approving drugs once they have been proven safe, so patients desperate for treatment can get them. Now, as you know, the FDA doesn't approve drugs until they've been found to be safe, which in recent times has meant additional years of testing to determine their full effectiveness, all of which results in more expensive drugs with shorter patents.

Changing this process will be a huge departure from the FDA's current policies. And our involvement could help tip the scales in this fight, so I'm hoping you will support us as we strive to help in fixing the FDA.

In addition to making drug approvals more efficient, we need to sound the alarm about the FDA's "Obey-to-Play" rule for journalists.

This is where the agency manipulates the news media so it will receive favorable coverage without press scrutiny.

Here's how this media manipulation works:

- The FDA holds exclusive briefings for handpicked journalists;
- These journalists agree to not seek input from outside science experts – unless the FDA specifically approves them – to independently verify the agency's health claims;
- Other journalists are excluded from these briefings and most don't even know about them at all.

As you can see, these journalists are acting like lapdogs instead of watchdogs. They're letting the FDA manipulate them so it can effectively ban skeptical or critical press coverage.

Moreover, these handpicked journalists stay in the FDA's good graces, and continue receiving exclusive access to the agency, by keeping these briefings secret and adhering to the FDA's rules.

Of course, the big losers in this scheme are the American people ...

... because people are seeing news reports about FDA findings and ad campaigns – which they assume have been independently verified and fact-checked since that's the media's job. But this coverage is really *government propaganda disguised as journalism*.

And Americans are falling for this scam because the FDA's handpicked journalists all work for top-tier media outlets, such as CBS, NBC, CNN, National Public Radio, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*.

At the same time, the FDA withholds information from the larger community of journalists, because the agency worries that they might actually fulfill their watchdog role and verify the agency's claims.

We hope that new leadership in Washington will rein in, not just the FDA, but all lawless regulatory agencies, government bureaucrats putting their political ideologies ahead of real science, and anti-science lobbyists flooding the nation's capital.

If draining the regulatory swamp indeed is a priority of the new administration, ACSH is in a position to shape the scientific dialogue and advance the cause of evidence-based science in setting public policy.

Yet shaping the scientific dialogue in Washington and across the country will require the support of everyone who cares about real science.

And that's why I'm hoping you can send a contribution to ACSH today.

I need your help to fight the politicization of science that has taken root in federal agencies ranging from the EPA to the FDA to the HHS and the CDC and more.

We stand ready to influence the debate on a whole range of issues – such as seeing America unleash its potential for affordable energy production.

One big change we can help achieve is educating the public on the benefits of natural gas extraction using fracking.

Despite the fear mongering of the previous administration and environmental activists, the science on fracking is crystal clear.

Fracking – which has been around for many years – is safe. And compared to burning coal or oil, the remarkable amounts of natural gas made available by fracking versus pollution generated is simply better for the planet.

Fracking is clearly in America's national interest. There is broad political consensus that Americans would be better off relying on ourselves and our closest allies (like Canada) for energy, rather than on Middle Eastern countries that then use their wealth for cultural agendas that contradict U.S. beliefs.

The environmentalists and the protesters who block fracking and the construction of pipelines, such as Keystone XL and Dakota Access, are serving as “useful idiots” for those countries that don’t like us.

We even showed the Russians were manipulating American environmentalists to limit our ability to generate, much less export, energy.

Working together, you and I can defeat the activists who put their political agendas above the health and well-being of Americans – and advance the cause of real science.

I know you understand that in the limited space of this letter I have only been able to touch on some of what we can accomplish in the coming weeks and months.

In addition to everything you’ve read here today, your generous support will also help us:

- Take on the pseudoscientific medical claims about things like UV baby bottle sterilization, medical cynicism and anything else requiring us to separate the science from the hype – in the way that only we can!
- Continue refuting the lie that trace chemicals in the products we use everyday are causing cancer in children and adults.
- Advance our work exposing the misinformation over organic foods, GMOs, pesticides and fertilizers, “scary” foods and what’s causing the obesity epidemic.

Your gift will also help us continue expanding our public outreach, which is seeing explosive growth online. Our ACSH.org website has seen an 800% increase in traffic over the past 12 months, and our presence on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and all media is growing by leaps and bounds as well.

What’s more, your support will help us continue producing our original research and peer-reviewed studies. With these studies, we inform and then unleash millions of Americans armed with the truth.

Remember that the nucleus of ACSH, the secret of our effectiveness in this and all our campaigns, is our board of more than 300 physicians, scientists and policy advisors – world-renowned experts in a wide variety of fields.

Our advisory board knows better than anyone that efforts to silence scientific debate – as you and I have seen recently – threaten our nation and our personal health and safety.

ACSH is the only organization of its type backed by a full range of scientific and medical experts who have fought to defend the benefits of solid science.

The unmatched prestige of the ACSH Board of Scientific Advisors is the

reason why ACSH can lead the fight to expose the lies being spread by anti-science fear mongers in and out of government.

I have said it before and I'll say it again: No other group duplicates our work.

Without ACSH to protect the public from anti-science activists, bureaucrats and fear mongers ... who will stand for reason, logic and the scientific method?

The answer, of course, is no one.

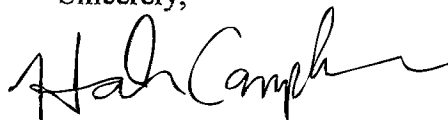
Ms. Chandler, this is why I hope you will send a generous tax-deductible gift of \$50 or \$100 to ACSH today.

We have an opportunity to influence the debate and advance the cause of real science this year, so please consider sending as much as \$250, \$500 or even \$1,000 or more at this time.

Any size gift will be most welcomed ... and is urgently needed in our fight to keep politics out of science.

Thank you so much. Please know I will be thinking of you and hoping to hear from you in the next few days.

Sincerely,



Hank Campbell
President

P.S. If you are anything like me, you're sick and tired of seeing science used as a political weapon. And you're outraged by unelected federal bureaucrats abusing their power to cater to the environmental lobby – at the expense of public health.

That's why I want you to know about the American Council of Science and Health. We are the only group pursuing the full-time mission of defeating the anti-science activists in and out of government. And we stand ready to expose the rot in out-of-control federal agencies that are fueling the politicization of science.

But so much rides on new friends like you – concerned citizens who believe in real science – joining with ACSH to help advance our vital work in the months ahead.

Ms. Chandler, please send your tax-deductible contribution of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more to ACSH today. Thank you again – and please know I need you with us in this fight.



AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH
Science. Not Hype.

Let's End the Politicization of Science!

Hank Campbell, President
American Council on Science and Health
110 East 42nd Street, Suite 1300
New York, NY 10017

FROM:

Ms. Marguerite Chandler
[REDACTED]

___ Yes, Hank, I agree! The out-of-control federal regulatory agencies are placing their anti-science political agendas above the health and safety of all Americans. Only ACSH has what it takes to expose this politicization of science and arm the public with the truth.

___ I agree – ACSH plays a unique role in America. No other group duplicates its work. If we don't keep fighting the anti-science hucksters and fear mongers – no one else will!

___ Yes! I want to help the American Council on Science and Health take advantage of its unique position to influence science and health policy in the months to come. To help in this critical effort, please accept my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$500

\$1,000

Other: \$ _____

___ My check, made payable to ACSH, is enclosed.

___ Please charge my credit card: [] Visa, [] MasterCard, [] AmEx, [] Discover

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Phone Number: _____

If you prefer to give online, visit us at www.ACSH.org.

___ Please add me to ACSH's *Dispatch*, the daily e-newsletter that details ACSH's fight against junk science. My e-mail address is _____.

ACSH is a 501(c)(3) organization, so contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.