

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5355

To amend the America COMPETES Act to prevent political interference
in the communication of scientific research, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend the America COMPETES Act to prevent political
interference in the communication of scientific research,
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 “Stop Climate Censor-
5 ship Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREVENTION OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE**
7 **COMMUNICATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.**

8 Title I of the America COMPETES Act is amended
9 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 1010. PREVENTION OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of
4 the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop
5 and issue policies, consistent with established scientific in-
6 tegrity policies, that require political appointees of each
7 Federal civilian agency that conducts scientific research
8 to publicly report on any action by such political ap-
9 pointee—

10 “(1) to modify any scientific research or find-
11 ings that are used to inform any agency communica-
12 tion to the public relating to climate change; or

13 “(2) to modify any agency communication to
14 the public in a manner inconsistent with scientific
15 research or findings relating to climate change.

16 “(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required
17 under subsection (a) shall—

18 “(1) specify the specific individuals who were
19 involved in the decision to take such action;

20 “(2) describe the scientific evidence used to jus-
21 tify such decision;

22 “(3) specify any other agency or individual con-
23 sulted with respect to such decision; and

24 “(4) be provided by such political appointee to
25 the appropriate committees of jurisdiction in Con-
26 gress for the respective agencies.

1 “(c) REVIEW OF POLICIES.—The Director of the Of-
2 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall review and up-
3 date as necessary the policies described in this section on
4 a biennial basis.

5 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) POLITICAL APPOINTEE.—The term ‘polit-
7 ical appointee’ means a Federal employee who
8 holds—

9 “(A) a position which has been excepted
10 from the competitive service by reason of its
11 confidential, policy-determining, policy-making,
12 or policy-advocating character; or

13 “(B) a position in the Senior Executive
14 Service as a noncareer appointee (as such term
15 is defined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United
16 States Code).

17 “(2) CLIMATE CHANGE.—The term ‘climate
18 change’ means any change in the state of the global
19 climate that can be identified by changes in the
20 mean or the variability of its properties, and that
21 persists for an extended period, typically decades or
22 longer.”.

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