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April 26, 2006

Dr. George Gray
Assistant Administrator for Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20406

Dear Dr. Gray:

In May 2004, the Office of Research and Development (ORD) sought an independent Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) expert review of its Global Change Research Program. A key aspect of the Program is that it operates within the context of the multi-agency Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). The CCSP is a melding of the Administration's Climate Change Research Initiative and the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

After consultation with EPA staff, the BOSC formed the seven-member Global Change Subcommittee to review and evaluate the Program. The Subcommittee was composed of representatives from academia, industry, and government. Dr. Milton Russell of the University of Tennessee and Dr. Clifford Duke (also a member of the BOSC Executive Committee) served as the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee was charged with evaluating ORD's Global Change Research program with respect to relevance, quality, performance, scientific leadership, and resources. The Subcommittee members communicated through an administrative conference call and two substantive conference calls fully open to the public. In addition, the Subcommittee met with Agency program directors, individual researchers, Science To Achieve Results (STAR) grantees, clients, stakeholders, and the public on September 26-28, 2005, in Washington, DC, to conduct the program review and draft a report for BOSC Executive Committee approval.

The results of the review are anticipated to assist ORD in program enhancement, comparative analysis with similar programs, intermediate mid-term investment decisions, Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) reporting, and response to the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process. The charge questions and the Subcommittee's response are contained

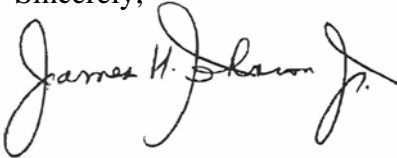
in the enclosed report. The Subcommittee addressed its charge by responding to a series of sub-questions focused on two fundamental questions:

1. Is the Global Change Research Program engaged in the “right” work?
2. Does the Program conduct its research and assessment activities “well”?

It is my pleasure to transmit this report to you on behalf of the BOSC Executive Committee and the Global Change Subcommittee. We hope that the advice provided in the report will assist ORD in improving its science, explaining the significance of its research, and assisting clients inside and outside of EPA in utilizing its research products.

Please feel free to contact me if there are questions regarding the report. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James H. Johnson, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James H. Johnson, Jr.
Chair