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To: OMB_peer_review@omb.eop.gov

cc:

Subject: OMB Revised Information Quality Bulletin on Peer Review

May 28, 2004

Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office building, Room 10201
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: OMB Revised Information Quality Bulletin on Peer Review

American Agri-Women supports the 'Revised Information Quality Bulletin on Peer Review'.

It is imperative that sound science be used in all government decisions and in implementation of all government regulation. By establishing standards and procedure for peer review of 'influential scientific information' and 'highly influential scientific information', this bulletin provides a mechanism that will further that goal.

The criteria for selection of reviewers rightly includes expertise; balance; independence; and absence of any conflict of interest. We suggest the individuals selected to serve as peer reviewers must not only be free of financial conflict of interest, but be totally unbiased and objective, with no philosophical predisposition.

Also, we urge caution in implementing the provision that recommends early consultation with the peers to confer on the procedure for protocol and testing. Our concern is that this could impede true independent exploration for scientific judgment.

AAW comends OMB for taking this step toward improving the quality and credibility of scientific information that is disseminated to the public.

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