



August 27, 2026

Re: Suspension or Debarment of NASEM grants

Dear Cabinet Secretaries, Administrators, and Directors:

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (“NASEM”) relies on huge sums of money from climate activists and, in turn, generates reports bearing the imprimatur of the United States that rubber-stamp those same activists’ failing litigation theories. Even worse, taxpayer dollars are commingled to subsidize the whole racket. Federal agencies can end grants to an organization that uses taxpayer money to prop up litigation theories that have been rejected by courts from Maryland to Mississippi to California, and even by the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”). NASEM’s coordination with these groups appears to influence both the content of purportedly-neutral guidance provided to federal courts and the timing of reporting, with NASEM’s climate moves all conveniently arrayed to maximize the strategic benefit to litigants funded by NASEM’s donors. Organizations that abuse taxpayer money to prop up political causes for the benefit of donors should not receive federal agency grants.

President Trump recently noted that NASEM is using taxpayer dollars to produce “fraudulent, biased, and misleading” climate change manuals for the federal judiciary.¹ State attorneys general (“AGs”), including many of the undersigned, previously called for federal agencies to cut NASEM’s funding based upon its biased climate-attribution chapter (“Chapter”) in a judicial reference manual, because the Chapter was designed to help plaintiffs in active climate cases.² Even after AGs noted glaring flaws with the Chapter’s process and content, NASEM refused to withdraw the Chapter. NASEM told AGs that the Chapter would “continue to be available on

¹ <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116949428377514667>

² https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/03/10/file_attachments/3579240/2026-03-11%20AGs%27%20Ltr%20to%20Agencies%20re%20NASEM_ex%20A.pdf (letter to agencies)

the Academy's website,"³ and publicly defended the Chapter's process and content.⁴ In contrast, the Federal Judicial Center quickly withdrew the Chapter.⁵

Now, over five months later, after presidential criticism and increasing public scrutiny, NASEM has temporarily removed the Chapter from its website for an "independent review" of the "processes used to develop the chapter."⁶ However, this review appears to be a sham, as demonstrated by NASEM's secrecy around all aspects of the review process. A truly independent review would appoint an external panel; use reviewers who are not activists, litigation participants, or NASEM employees; publish the review process and findings; identify the review's scope; and ensure the review's scope addresses the material criticisms of the Chapter. Critics have demonstrated that the Chapter materially misquotes the IPCC,⁷ directly contradicts the manual's statistics chapter,⁸ was apparently substantially ghost-written by climate plaintiffs' attorney Michael Burger,⁹ and had funders, authors, and reviewers that included climate funders, activists, and litigation participants.¹⁰ NASEM's destruction of its own credibility in the Chapter and its response to criticism, combined with NASEM doubling down on propping up climate plaintiffs' litigation theories by issuing another biased report (as discussed below), warrant debarment or suspension by federal agencies.

In July, NASEM released a biased climate-attribution report, entitled "Attribution of Extreme Weather and Climate Events and Their Impacts 2026" ("Report"), to aid climate plaintiffs, including in the pending Supreme Court case *Suncor Energy v. County Commissioners of Boulder County* ("Suncor"). The Report's clear bias warrants NASEM's debarment or suspension by federal agencies, as

³ *Id.* (final page shows NASEM's response); see https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/02/19/file_attachments/3559530/2026-02-19%20AGs%20Ltr%20to%20NAS%20FINAL.pdf (AG letter to NASEM)

⁴ <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/the-national-academy-of-sciences-isnt-biased-a343c0a6>

⁵ <https://ago.wv.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/2026.02.06%20-%20Federal%20Judicial%20Center%20Letter%20Chapter%20Withdrawal.pdf> (FJC withdrawal)

⁶ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/nas-to-conduct-process-review-of-chapter-in-reference-manual-on-scientific-evidence>

⁷ <https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/who-actually-wrote-the-climate-manual>

⁸ <https://www.gphopper.com/p/the-jedi-mind-tricks-in-the-new-climate-7b0>

⁹ <https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/who-actually-wrote-the-climate-manual>

¹⁰ See, e.g., <https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/who-actually-wrote-the-climate-manual>; <https://natlawreview.com/article/reference-manual-fails-its-own-test-national-academies-should-withdraw-climate>; <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/26919/chapter/1>, at xvii (noting that the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation made the manual possible); <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/4422166-why-are-charities-funneling-millions-into-climate-change-lawfare/> (providing example of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation funding climate litigation)

demonstrated by three facts: (1) the Report’s biased content seeks to prop up climate plaintiffs’ failing litigation theories, and advises on including attribution science in litigation; (2) climate-litigation supporters funded, led, and provided input on the Report, as evidenced by numerous connections between the Report and persons or organizations who filed amicus briefs in *Suncor*; and (3) the timing of the Report’s release allowed plaintiffs’ amici in *Suncor* to cite the Report, but prevented critiques from defendants’ amici, whose filing deadline had passed. Notably, one amicus organization supporting plaintiffs in *Suncor* bragged about the Report’s timing, cited the Report over and over on ten of its pages, and received \$100 million to “accelerate climate action” from the Bezos Earth Fund—which also funded NASEM’s Report. Agencies may wish to look further into the nature of this convenient coincidence.

I. The Report Justifies NASEM’s Federal Suspension or Debarment

As President Trump and AGs have noted,¹¹ bias designed to aid one side in litigation warrants suspension or debarment of federal funds. Federal agencies collectively gave NASEM hundreds of millions of dollars in 2024, including over \$84 million from DOT, \$32 million from DOD, and \$23 million from HHS.¹² A federal agency can immediately suspend NASEM’s access to federal contracts and grants under the Federal Acquisition Regulation¹³ or the Nonprocurement Common Rule¹⁴ if the agency finds: (1) “[i]mmediate action is necessary to protect the public interest” or the “Government’s interest”; and/or (2) there is “adequate evidence” that the misconduct at issue is sufficiently “serious or compelling” to affect NASEM’s “present responsibility” as a government contractor or grant recipient.¹⁵ Debarment uses similar standards.¹⁶ The biased use of federal taxpayer funds to favor one side in a political controversy, especially one tied to ongoing and highly consequential litigation, requires “immediate action” to “protect the public interest” and the

¹¹ See <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116949428377514667>; https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/03/10/file_attachments/3579240/2026-03-11_AGs%27_Ltr_to_Agencies_re_NASEM_ex_A.pdf

¹² <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/29218/chapter/2> (p. 6)

¹³ 48 C.F.R. Subpart 9.4

¹⁴ 2 C.F.R. Part 180

¹⁵ See 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.700(b)–(c) (allowing suspension based on a combination of the need for immediate action to protect the public interest and adequate evidence of a violation of any of the causes listed in § 180.800(b)–(d)), 180.800(d); 48 C.F.R. §§ 9.407-1(b)(1) (allowing suspension based on adequate evidence that immediate action is necessary to protect the Government’s interest), 9.407-2(c) (allowing suspension based on a “cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects the present responsibility”)

¹⁶ See 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.800(d), 180.605; 48 C.F.R. § 9.406-2(c). In contrast to the more permissive “adequate evidence” standard for a suspension, a debarment generally requires a “preponderance of the evidence.” See 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.850(a), 180.605; 48 C.F.R. § 9.406-3(d)(3)

“Government’s interest.”¹⁷ The facts set forth below concerning the Report’s content, funding, and timing supply “adequate evidence” of misconduct sufficiently “serious or compelling” to affect NASEM’s “present responsibility.”¹⁸

II. The Report Directly Supports Climate Plaintiffs’ Primary Litigation Theory

The Report is intended to prop up the failing theory of climate plaintiffs—that individual companies can be held liable for climate change and adverse effects such as specific weather events through “attribution science.” This theory directly conflicts with the finding of the IPCC that “[s]cientists cannot answer directly whether a particular event was caused by climate change.”¹⁹ Indeed, courts from Maryland to Mississippi to California rejected various forms of plaintiffs’ theory over nearly two decades.²⁰

Nevertheless, the Report’s stated goal is to “demonstrate the role that attribution science can play” in litigation, and it argues that attribution science could help resolve legal elements, such as “standing, causation, harm, and foreseeability,” in plaintiffs’ favor.²¹ The Report conveniently provides purported and previously-missing support for a key step in drawing a line from an extreme weather event to liability for specific defendants, and upon publication, the Report was immediately weaponized by litigants closely connected to NASEM’s funders.

Reinforcing its intended use in litigation, the Report states that attribution science “may be relevant to policy **and legal decisions** pertaining to climate change **and liability** for losses sustained as a result of extreme weather and climate events,” may be “useful in estimating marginal damages attributable to climate change,” and may inform “responsibility or liability determinations,” including “whether defendants may be held liable” in climate litigation.²² The Report even has a chapter

¹⁷ See 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.700(b)–(c), 180.800(d); 48 C.F.R. §§ 9.407-1(b)(1), 9.407-2(c); *see also* [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/03/10/file_attachments/3579240/2026-03-11 AGs%27 Ltr to Agencies re NASEM ex A.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/03/10/file_attachments/3579240/2026-03-11%20AGs%20Ltr%20to%20Agencies%20re%20NASEM%20ex%20A.pdf) (discussing reasons for suspension or debarment)

¹⁸ See 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.700(b)–(c), 180.800(d); 48 C.F.R. §§ 9.407-1(b)(1), 9.407-2(c).

¹⁹ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Chapter11.pdf (p. 1611)

²⁰ See, e.g., *Native Vill. of Kivalina v. ExxonMobil Corp.*, 663 F. Supp. 2d 863, 878 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (rejecting plaintiffs’ standing argument that they need only show that energy companies “contributed” to climate change and their injuries), *aff’d*, 696 F.3d 849 (9th Cir. 2012); *Comer v. Murphy Oil USA, Inc.*, 839 F. Supp. 2d 849, 861 (S.D. Miss. 2012) (“plaintiffs cannot allege that the defendants’ particular emissions led to their property damage”) *aff’d*, 718 F.3d 460 (5th Cir. 2013); *Mayor & City Council of Baltimore v. B.P. P.L.C.*, 353 A.3d 1142, 1186 (Md. 2026) (rejecting plaintiffs’ attribution argument and finding that the link between defendants’ activities and the alleged harms was “far too attenuated,” especially given that the harms were caused by “human activity around the world”)

²¹ See <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. 39–44)

²² <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. 39–40, 42) (emphases added)

about “Opportunities and Challenges for Advancing” climate-attribution science, including a discussion of how attribution studies can meet the expert standard under *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals* “for inclusion in litigation.”²³ “Advancing” plaintiffs’ litigation theories for the purpose of surviving a *Daubert* motion is climate activism, not scientific rigor, and is not appropriate for a taxpayer-funded organization that claims to focus on objectivity and truth.²⁴

III. The Report Relied on Funding and Input from Climate Litigation Supporters

Climate litigation supporters funded, led, and provided input on the Report. As detailed below, these supporters are directly involved in climate litigation, including in the *Suncor* case, where plaintiffs’ complaint depends on attribution-science theories the Report attempts to support.²⁵ In fact, a Congressional committee previously observed a “troubling pattern” of affiliations between members of the NASEM committee that created the Report and organizations supporting climate accountability lawsuits.²⁶ The Congressional committee further noted that NASEM’s January 2025 policy changes require NASEM committee members to merely disclose non-financial conflicts, such as professional and legal affiliations, with no protocol for mitigation.²⁷

Each of the Report’s three funders is connected to climate litigation. Bezos Earth Fund²⁸ funded the Report and also gave \$100 million to the Natural Resources Defense Council (“NRDC”) to “accelerate climate action”²⁹ and \$15 million to the Union of Concerned Scientists (“UCS”),³⁰ both of which submitted amicus briefs in

²³ See <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. 151 (Chapter); p. 159–61 (inclusion in litigation)); *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993)

²⁴ See, e.g., www.nationalacademies.org/purpose

²⁵ See, e.g., https://www.climatecasechart.com/documents/board-of-county-commissioners-of-boulder-county-v-suncor-energy-u-s-a-inc-complaint_0628 (¶ 88 (alleging that defendants’ emissions caused and contributed to climate change, which “exacerbates the impacts of climate change and plaintiffs’ injuries”))

²⁶ See <https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/2/b/2b63ce9f-f802-4cd8-85d2-65ff05f42e3e/F8FAFC6097FE51954BD2CA210A9B07F3509D6333DDBA187583F7A746BBC5E4B5.4.21.26-ioenvsst-to-nas-attribution-.pdf>

²⁷ See <https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/2/b/2b63ce9f-f802-4cd8-85d2-65ff05f42e3e/F8FAFC6097FE51954BD2CA210A9B07F3509D6333DDBA187583F7A746BBC5E4B5.4.21.26-ioenvsst-to-nas-attribution-.pdf>

²⁸ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-BASCPR-23-02/about>

²⁹ <https://www.nrdc.org/press-releases/nrdc-receives-100-million-bezos-earth-fund-accelerate-climate-action>

³⁰ <https://www.ucs.org/about/news/bezos-earth-fund-grant-advances-ucs-work-grid-and-truck-electrification>

support of plaintiffs in *Suncor*.³¹ In fact, NRDC’s brief cited the Bezos-funded Report over and over on ten of its pages.³² Another Report funder, Robert Litterman,³³ is a board member and major funder for one of the nonprofit organizations that the government plaintiffs identify as providing “most of the legal work” in *Suncor*.³⁴ The Report’s third funder, the Heising-Simons Foundation, has also given millions to NRDC and to UCS,³⁵ and has funded Earthjustice³⁶ and the Environmental Protection Network,³⁷ both of which also filed amicus briefs in *Suncor*.³⁸ The Heising-Simons Foundation partners with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law,³⁹ which files amicus briefs in climate cases,⁴⁰ and whose director serves as “Of Counsel” for Sher Edling, which has filed over 25 climate cases.⁴¹

The NASEM committee (“Committee”) that led the development of the Report likewise included climate litigation supporters. Delta Merner helps run a “Climate Accountability Campaign” at the Bezos-funded and Heising-Simons-funded UCS, providing “evidence to inform legal cases that hold fossil fuel companies accountable

³¹ https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/417916/20260803125632135_Suncor_Amicus_8.3_-_Final.pdf (NRDC brief); https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/418022/20260803155553378_25-170%20Amicus%20Brief.pdf (UCS brief)

³² https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/417916/20260803125632135_Suncor_Amicus_8.3_-_Final.pdf (p. vi) (table of authorities)

³³ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-BASCP-23-02/about>

³⁴ See <https://www.niskanencenter.org/author/boblitterman/>; https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/s/display_990/133805239/IRS%2F133805239_202409_990PF_2025021423094832 (\$150,000 donation to Niskanen Center); <https://bouldercounty.gov/climate/impacts/climate-lawsuit/> (click “What will this lawsuit cost the local taxpayers?”)

³⁵ See, e.g., <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202543219349106499/full> (2024); <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202443169349102959/full> (2023)

³⁶ <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202443169349102959/full>

³⁷ <https://grantedai.com/org/environmental-protection-network-821378870>

³⁸ https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/417930/20260803130908864_Suncor_Buzbee_Amicus_Brief.pdf (Earthjustice acting as counsel); https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/417905/20260803123508007_25-170.Amicus_Brief.Former_EPA_Administrators_et_al..pdf (Environmental Protection Network)

³⁹ <https://climate.law.columbia.edu/content/support-us>

⁴⁰ See generally <https://climate.law.columbia.edu/content/comments-legal-briefs-and-testimonies> (listing many amicus briefs, such as briefs filed by Michael Burger in 2019 in cases against energy companies)

⁴¹ <https://www.sheredling.com/attorneys/michael-burger/>; see <https://www.sheredling.com/practice-areas/climate/>; https://www.commerce.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/2023.09.25_Sen.Cruz_and_Chairman_Comer_Letter_to_Sher_Edling.pdf

for climate-related damages.”⁴² Merner served on the Committee developing the Report until January 2025, after a second public criticism of her bias.⁴³ Shortly thereafter, Merner proved those concerns correct by publishing an article called “Decades of Deceit: The Case Against Major Fossil Fuel Companies for Climate Fraud and Damages,” and the UCS amicus brief in *Suncor* cites to that article for support.⁴⁴ Committee member Joyce Kimutai,⁴⁵ an attribution researcher, is the co-chair of a climate litigation working group,⁴⁶ has “discussions around how the science can support some of these climate cases,” and produces reports that she states are “very handy in supporting climate cases.”⁴⁷ Committee member Kevin Reed, a researcher who is the Chief Climate Scientist at the New York Climate Exchange,⁴⁸ believes “we need to hold corporations and governments accountable” for climate change⁴⁹ and participates in the Climate Judiciary Project’s efforts to influence judges in favor of climate plaintiffs, presenting on the “science of attribution.”⁵⁰

In producing the Report, the Committee also relied on input from a climate plaintiffs’ attorney and other climate litigation supporters. The Report’s Acknowledgments section thanks Michael Burger,⁵¹ without mentioning that Burger is “Of Counsel” for the Sher Edling law firm. Sher Edling is contingency counsel in over 25 climate cases and stands to benefit substantially from a Report propping up their claims.⁵² Burger also co-wrote an amicus brief in *Suncor*,⁵³ and a complaint in

⁴² <https://www.ucs.org/about/people/delta-merner>

⁴³ See <https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/attribution-stealth-advocacy-at-the-https://eidclimate.org/climate-plaintiffs-plan-to-laundry-donor-funded-research-through-the-national-academy-of-sciences/> (dated Jan. 2, 2025); <https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-BASCPR-23-02> (noting that Merner left on Jan. 2, 2025)

⁴⁴ https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/418022/20260803155553378_25-170_Amicus_Brief.pdf (p. 32) (citing <https://www.ucs.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/Decades-of-Deceit-report-f.pdf>)

⁴⁵ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-BASCPR-23-02/about>; see <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. v)

⁴⁶ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. 233)

⁴⁷ <https://imaginize.world/joyce-kimutai-transcript/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-BASCPR-23-02/about>; see <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. v)

⁴⁹ <https://www.umass.edu/honors/news/meet-dr-kevin-reed>

⁵⁰ See https://www.cjpfles.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Redacted_NJC-E-Binder-for-JLCS-Sept.-12-14-2022-Falmouth-2.pdf (p. 17, 103)

⁵¹ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. ix)

⁵² <https://www.sheredling.com/attorneys/michael-burger/>; <https://climatelitigationwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MN-OAG-Sher-Edling-contingency-fee-agreement.pdf> (p. A-2, A-3)

⁵³ https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/417995/20260803145436568_2026-08-03%20SubSov%20Amicus%20Brief%204923-9086-1764%20v.1.pdf

Honolulu’s climate litigation, using climate attribution theories that the Report directly supports.⁵⁴ The Report also relied on input from Jessica Wentz and Kristie Ebi.⁵⁵ Wentz co-authored the Chapter,⁵⁶ co-authored an article with Burger on the same attribution research that the Report endorses,⁵⁷ and also co-authored an article setting forth litigation strategies for holding fossil-fuel companies liable for climate damages, and the article thanked Burger for helping “identify the need for this research” and giving “extensive feedback.”⁵⁸ Kristie Ebi previously joined an amicus brief in support of climate plaintiffs,⁵⁹ and has worked with climate scientists “who are also engaged in court cases on attribution of extreme events to climate change.”⁶⁰ Finally, the Report thanks Kelly Levin from Bezos Earth Fund for her input as well.⁶¹

IV. The Report’s Timing Helps Climate Plaintiffs at the Supreme Court

The timing of the Report’s release benefited plaintiffs and their amici in the *Suncor* case, while disadvantaging defendants’ amici. NASEM released the Report in July, **after** the date that amicus briefs supporting defendants were due in May, but **before** briefs supporting the climate plaintiffs were due in August.⁶² This convenient timing allowed climate-activist amici to cite to the Report without allowing opposing amici to challenge the Report. The amicus brief from the Bezos-funded NRDC brags that the Report’s endorsement of attribution science came “just weeks after

⁵⁴ See <https://www.climatecasechart.com/documents/honolulu-sued-fossil-fuel-companies-in-state-court> 550e (¶¶ 42–47, 149)

⁵⁵ See <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. ix); <https://www.nationalacademies.org/cdn/materials/9fba08ab-29bc-4983-9c00-2baf87107a9b> (p. 1–2); <https://www.nationalacademies.org/cdn/materials/9fba08ac-7fec-4af5-b537-ace5f092aa8e> (Wentz presentation); <https://www.nationalacademies.org/cdn/materials/9fba08ab-87e8-474b-8516-7b942b785c19> (Ebi presentation)

⁵⁶ <https://blogs.law.columbia.edu/climatechange/2026/02/26/defending-the-climate-science-reference-guide/>

⁵⁷ https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=sabin_climate_change

⁵⁸ <https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/files-pdf/52.10995.pdf>

⁵⁹ See <https://clinics.law.harvard.edu/environment/files/2019/03/Juliana-Public-Health-Experts-Brief-with-Paper-Copy-Certificate.pdf> (p. 6)

⁶⁰ https://www.cipfiles.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Kristie-Ebi-Response-to-Hanle-6-28-2022-Redacted.pdf?attachment_id=383

⁶¹ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/28590> (p. ix)

⁶² <https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/25-170.html> (showing that energy companies’ merits brief was filed May 14, while climate plaintiffs’ brief was filed July 27); https://www.supremecourt.gov/filingandrules/2026RulesoftheCourt_WEB.pdf (p. 53) (amicus brief must be filed within 7 days of the brief for the party supported)

[defendants] asserted in their opening brief that the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions cannot be disaggregated and traced.”⁶³ In other words, the Report gave the plaintiffs’ supporters exactly what they needed, exactly when they needed it, to further their litigation goals, without affording the other side an opportunity to weigh in. Agencies may wish to investigate this coincidence given the heavy overlap between the Report’s funding and development and the *Suncor* litigation.

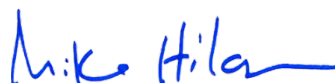
V. Conclusion

State attorneys general have previously pointed out the misconduct related to NASEM’s publication and retention of the Chapter, including conflicts of interest, violation of peer review standards, and biased presentation of climate arguments.⁶⁴ NASEM’s long-belated review of that Chapter only compounds those issues, especially given that NASEM has concealed all aspects of the review. That review is not a reason for agencies to defer action. The Report heightens these concerns and adds further evidence of misconduct, as it repeated the offense on a Supreme Court case’s timetable. Taxpayer money should not be funding NASEM’s biased actions, which warrant suspension or debarment. If NASEM continues to lend its imprimatur to litigation-driven advocacy, then Congress should find another source for objective analysis and consider revoking the 1863 charter that designates the Academies as an adviser to the federal government.⁶⁵

Sincerely,



Austin Knudsen
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MONTANA



Mike Hilgers
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEBRASKA



John B. McCuskey
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WEST VIRGINIA



Jonathan Skrametti
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TENNESSEE

⁶³ https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/25/25-170/417916/20260803125632135_Suncor%20Amicus%208.3%20-%20Final.pdf (p. vi) (table of authorities)

⁶⁴ https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/03/10/file_attachments/3579240/2026-03-11%20AGs%27%20Ltr%20to%20Agencies%20re%20NASEM_ex%20A.pdf

⁶⁵ 12 Stat. 806–07



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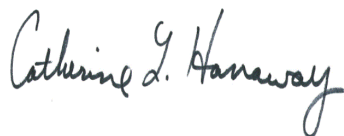
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Ken Paxton
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Derek Brown
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF UTAH

AGs Letter re: NASEM Grants
August 27, 2026

cc:

The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War
The Honorable Christopher Wright, Secretary of Energy
The Honorable Sean Duffy, Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Secretary of Health & Human Services
The Honorable Lee Zeldin, EPA Administrator
The Honorable Russell Vought, Director, Office of Management & Budget

Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee
Senate Armed Services Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
House Transportation Committee
House Armed Services Committee
House Appropriations Committee
House Committee on the Judiciary
House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
House Oversight Committee
House Committee on Energy & Commerce