

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

25 January 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to alert you to concerns about political interference by President Trump's administration in the provision of reliable information and research which could have consequences for policy-making in the United Kingdom and across the world. I hope that you will raise the issues outlined in this letter with the Prime Minister ahead of her meeting this week with President Trump.

I was one of 100 members of the climate change research community in the United Kingdom who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on 13 January about potential threats and opportunities arising from last November's elections in the United States. I have enclosed a copy of the letter.

We urged the Prime Minister to use the United Kingdom's special relationship with the United States, as well as international fora such as the G7 and G20, to press President Trump and his administration to acknowledge the scientific evidence about the risks of climate change, to continue to support international action to counter climate change, including the Paris Agreement, and to maintain support for world class research and data-gathering on climate change in the United States.

The letter warned that any severe weakening of climate change research and data-gathering undertaken by federal organisations in the United States would diminish the provision of robust and rigorous evidence that is used by policy-makers and researchers around the world, including in the United Kingdom.

It also pointed out that climate change researchers in the United States and United Kingdom have for many years worked extensively with each other and with researchers from across the world. The signatories to the letter declared that we stand ready to support and assist our counterparts in the United States, as collaborators, co-authors and colleagues, in resisting any political attempts to prevent, hamper or interfere with vital research on climate change.

There are now media reports in the United States that indicate our fears about political interference are beginning to be realised within a week of President Trump and his administration taking office. Information about climate change has already been removed from the website of the White House, and it has been reported that staff at the

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Chair:
**Professor Lord Stern
of Brentford**

Environmental Protection Agency have been told to similarly censor its web pages and instructed not to engage publicly about climate change.

I hope that you will draw the attention of the Prime Minister ahead of her meeting with President Trump this week to widespread concerns among researchers in the United Kingdom about these developments, and ask her to seek assurances that the United States will continue to offer robust and reliable information and research about climate change to policy-makers in the United Kingdom and around the world.

In view of the importance of these issues to the research community in the United Kingdom, I am copying this letter to Jo Johnson, the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.E.J. Ward". The letters are cursive and connected, with a large initial 'R'.

Bob Ward
Policy and Communications Director

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