

RESOLUTION

The March for Science

Rutgers University Senate

March 2017

Well-funded campaigns to cast doubt upon or discredit widely accepted, incontrovertible scientific research results have been part of the American political scene for more than 40 years. From tobacco to acid rain to the ozone hole to climate change, scientific facts have threatened corporate profits and those whose profits have been threatened have fought back. Wealthy corporate donors have dedicated enormous sums of money to creating doubt about well-settled science through the media and to purchasing political influence that will prevent any meaningful government action to protect the American people from the dangers revealed by the science.

The attacks on science, while in large part economically motivated, are part of a much wider ideological campaign against intellectualism and higher education in general. Until recently, the response of the scientific community and the higher education community has been relatively subdued. But the new political climate has created increasing awareness and concern among many of us. This awareness and concern has generated a good deal of public response.

A major event called the March for Science is going to take place on Earth Day, April 22, 2017. Scientists, academics, and concerned citizens will converge on Washington DC in support of research and evidence-based policies and for a teach-in on the National Mall.

Resolved

The Rutgers University Senate supports the March for Science and encourages all members of the Rutgers community to participate in the March or to express their support for the values that are fundamental to science and higher education in any way they can.

The Rutgers University Senate calls upon the Rutgers administration to support the March for Science and to encourage and assist members of the Rutgers community to attend.