

16 August 2011

Mr B. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr President,

we are scientists from Australia and have been following the investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement's inspector general's office, into alleged mis-administration by Dr Charles Monnett, of that Federal agency, and we are very concerned to hear about the manner in which the investigation of Dr Monnett is being undertaken.

Our concerns include:

- Despite claims that this is an administrative investigation, the investigators are placing a lot of weight on the 2006 article in *Polar Biology* about observed deaths of four polar bears. This is despite the considerable scientific literature on the ecological impacts of climate change on polar bears and other Arctic fauna
- This seems like the type of anti-science action that would have occurred under your predecessor and is similar to actions more expected in the pre-1989 Soviet Union

In short, we view the manner and process of this investigation as both bringing the integrity of the investigating office into disrepute, and adversely reflecting on the ability of the USA to pursue publicly funded science in an honest and transparent manner.

We ask Mr. President, that you intervene to ensure that Dr Monnett's investigation is put onto a more just and transparent pathway, and is rapidly concluded so as not to drag on and interrupt his professional career. We look to you making it clear that your commitment to removing political interference in the conduct of science, expressed in your 2009 presidential order, is taking effect. We support the call for a full inquiry into Dr Monnett's suspension

Yours sincerely

Dr Peter Tait, MBBS, FRACGP, MClimateChange

Stephan Lewandowsky,  
Winthrop Professor of Psychology, University of Western Australia  
Australian Professorial Fellow

Prof. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland and Queensland Smart State Premiers Fellow (2009-2013)

Prof. Michael Ashley, Professor of Physics at the University of New South Wales

cc Dr John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Co-Chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology