E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator

August 18, 2017

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sinema:

Thank you for your May 18, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC). EPA established the BOSC in 1996 to provide advice and recommendations on all aspects of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) research programs. The BOSC is an ORD-operated discretionary Federal Advisory Committee, currently consisting of an Executive Committee and five subcommittees.

BOSC members are distinguished scientists and engineers who are recognized experts in their respective fields. They come from academia, industry/business, federal, state and local governments, non-governmental and environmental organizations, research laboratories, and other relevant entities. All BOSC members must comply with annual ethics reporting and training requirements and must not possess conflicts of interest or an appearance of being unable to provide impartial advice.

BOSC members are identified through a recruitment plan that includes an open solicitation of potential candidates. Members are selected based on their: 1) scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience; 2) diversity including work sector, geographical location, gender, ethnicity and viewpoints; 3) availability to serve and willingness to commit time to the committee; 4) absence of financial conflict of interest; 5) absence of an appearance of a lack of impartiality; and 6) skills working on committees and advisory panels.

Similar to other federal advisory committees, BOSC members are appointed to serve a three-year term as a Special Government Employee (SGE), which can be renewed once. On April 28, the three-year terms expired for nine members of the BOSC Executive Committee (their names and affiliations are enclosed) and their terms were not renewed. On May 25, the EPA published a

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Federal Register notice soliciting public nominations for members to serve on the BOSC to ensure an open and competitive appointment process.[1] Indeed, it is expected those members whose three-year term had expired would reapply or be included in the list of candidates nominated and considered through this process.

Again, thank you for letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Troy Lyons in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-4987 or Lyons.Troy@epa.gov.

Respectfully yours,

E. Scott Pruitt

Enclosure

[1] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/25/2017-10672/requests-for-nominations-office-of-research-and-developments-board-of-scientific-counselors

**Board of Scientific Counselors Executive Committee members whose terms have expired**

Viney Aneja, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences
North Carolina State University

Sandra Smith, M.S.
Principle Toxicologist/Project Manager
AECOM

Robert Richardson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Community Sustainability
Michigan State University

Courtney Flint, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology, Social Work & Anthropology
Utah State University

Shahid Chaudhry MSc.
Senior Engineer
California Energy Commission

Paula Olsiewski, Ph.D.
Program Director
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Tammy Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Operating Officer
National Security Directorate
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Ponisseril Somasundaran, Ph.D.
La von Duddleson Krumb Professor
Columbia University

Gina Solomon, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Secretary for Science and Health
Office of the Secretary
California EPA