

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Robin L. Rosenberg  
Director  
Federal Judicial Center  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Director Rosenberg:

We write in strong objection to your decision to rescind critical non-partisan guidance on climate science from the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence. For more than 30 years, this reference manual has assisted federal judges with cases involving complex scientific and technical matters. The decision to remove this guidance on climate science from the recently-published fourth edition of the manual after review and publication sends a clear and chilling message that the federal judiciary is susceptible to partisan political pressure by Republicans. This censorship of scientific information undermines the key role of this non-partisan guidance and must be reversed.

The FJC was established by Congress to serve as the research and educational center for the federal judiciary. As part of its responsibilities, the FJC publishes a more-than-1,000 page reference manual for judicial use in partnership with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. This manual, entitled the Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence, provides “an impartial and reliable primary reference source on science for judges” and is written and reviewed by dozens of leading scientific experts. A new fourth edition of the manual was published in December 2025, nearly fifteen years after the publication of the prior edition. There have been countless scientific advancements in the last fifteen years, including in the field of climate science, and these updates have long been needed. It is crucial for accurate, up-to-date scientific and technical information to be included in this manual to best inform federal judges on matters relevant to their cases.

After facing political pressure from Republican attorneys general and conservative organizations, you made the decision to eliminate the entire chapter on climate science from the FJC Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence. We vehemently oppose this decision and are writing to understand why, after publishing, the FJC made the decision to delete this chapter. The decision to censor this information recklessly disregards scientific consensus and the work of experts in a critical field of science. Please understand that the backdrop to this is decades of purposeful disinformation by pollution emitters seeking to create false doubt about climate science, and put climate denial on an equal platform with climate science. That equivalence is not justified.

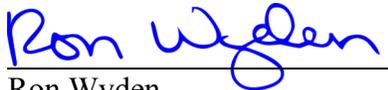
The deletion of this chapter will not remove cases involving climate change from the docket. Rather, it will hamstring federal judges who will now be unable to rely on this critical and impartial reference source. Instead of being well-informed on issues related to climate science, they will now be at much greater risk of making decisions based on outdated information or misinformation while adjudicating federal cases.

At a time when cases implicating climate science are increasing in number and frequency, your decision to capitulate to right-wing pressure and remove this chapter is unconscionable. It is critical that you restore this chapter and reject all future attempts to intimidate the judiciary into silence. A strong and equitable judiciary relies on trust. Discarding expert-level consensus on an entire scientific field is the antithesis of how to maintain that trust in the judicial process.

In addition to reinstating this chapter, we request answers to the following questions:

1. Describe in detail how the decision was made to remove this chapter.
2. What review processes did this chapter undergo prior to initial publication?
3. Were the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine consulted prior to the removal of this chapter?
4. What steps, if any, are you taking to eliminate partisan influence in the work of the FJC?

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



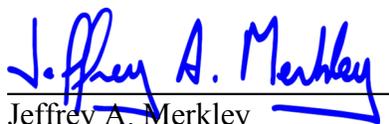
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
Chrissy Houlahan  
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Mike Thompson  
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
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