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To: Mabel E. Echols OMB\_Peer\_Review/OMB/EOP@EOP  
cc:  
Subject: OMB proposed peer review regulations.

To: OMB Director Joshua B. Bolten.

As a working scientist and one who is very concerned with public policy involving scientific issues, I **am strongly opposed** to the proposed OMB regulations regarding "peer review". These regulations confuse the bases for public policy decisions with the scientific process itself in which peer review is essential procedure. Public policy decisions must necessarily be made in a context of uncertainty; it is rare that scientific knowledge is such that policy decisions regarding health, education, defense systems, social welfare systems, etc., can be firmly based only on scientific information. I fear that the proposed regulations could easily be used, and perhaps are intended to be used, to block desirable regulations on the excuse that existing scientific knowledge is "inadequate".

Very truly yours,

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