

## ***Concerned Scientists @ IU***

### ***Advocates for Science @ IU***



### **9th District Congressional Candidates to Take Part in Forum on Science and Public Policy Bloomington, Indiana, May 6**

A local science advocacy group, *Concerned Scientists @ IU*, is organizing its second forum for congressional candidates focusing exclusively on issues of science and public policy. The event follows the organization's model role in organizing the nation's first such candidates' forum, held in March 2018.

The forum features questions and answers for candidates vying for the 9th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives. Originally planned as an in-person public forum, the format was changed to a remote (written) forum in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All declared candidates were invited to take part. Seven of the eight candidates seeking the position—Democrats **D. Liam Dorris**, **Brandon Hood**, **James O'Gabhann III**, **Mark Powell**, and **Andy Ruff**, Libertarian **Tonya Millis**, and Independent **John Tilford**—have all agreed to take part. Incumbent **Rep. Trey Hollingsworth** (R-Ind) was invited to participate but declined the invitation. All candidates have been given an opportunity to provide answers to eight questions provided in advance of the forum.

With increasing national attention on the status of scientific research in the U.S., Concerned Scientists @ IU (CSIU) and its student affiliate organization Advocates for Science @ IU (ASIU) advocate for "*the essential role of science and evidence-based decision making.*" The group is a non-partisan, informal coalition of Indiana University faculty, staff, students, and community members who are dedicated to the support of science and evidence-based decision-making in public policy. The group is not directly connected to Indiana University. Organized over the past three years, the group has grown to an active organization of over 1,200 members from Indiana University and surrounding communities in south-central Indiana, and has organized numerous meetings, events, and activities in support of the CSIU mission.

According to Deidra Miniard, graduate student in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and one of the organizers of the forum "Our goal with this effort is to help people voting in the 9th district to get to know their candidates' positions on the role of research and science in policy making. We also hope this candidate forum serves as an example of how people can engage their candidates on important issues."

The questions and candidates' responses will be posted on the CSIU website (<https://csiub.org/>) and distributed to local media outlets.

For additional information, contact Deidra Miniard ([dminiard@iu.edu](mailto:dminiard@iu.edu)), or Michael Hamburger ([hamburg@indiana.edu](mailto:hamburg@indiana.edu)).

Website: <https://csiub.org/>

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