

Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin

[February 7, 2022]



Our weekly bulletin collects and digests news of the past week.

Contributions welcome.

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NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES

Nature: [Huge boost for US science funding inches closer to reality](#)

The US House of Representatives has passed its America COMPETES Act, which includes money for science funding agencies.

Reuters: [U.S. climate envoy Kerry names Rick Duke as deputy](#)

U.S. Special Climate Envoy John Kerry has nominated one of his senior advisors, Rick Duke - the architect behind an international deal last year to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gas methane - to be his deputy.

NYT: [Biden administration to reinstate mercury pollution rules weakened under Trump](#)

The E.P.A. will resume enforcing limits on the release of mercury, a neurotoxin linked to developmental damage in children, from coal-burning power plants.

Washington Post: [Biden officials push to hold up \\$11.3 billion USPS truck contract, citing climate damage](#)

The Biden administration and EPA warns Postmaster General Louis DeJoy not to spend billions of dollars on a new fleet of gasoline-powered delivery trucks, citing the damage the polluting vehicles could inflict on the climate and Americans' health.

US News: [White House: Top scientist mistreated staff, apologizes](#)

A White House review has found credible evidence that top scientist Dr. Eric Lander violated its “Safe and Respectful Workplace Policy,” but the administration plans to keep him on the job after giving him counseling.

Nature Medicine: [Grassroots efforts to end structural racism throughout the US National Institutes of Health](#)

Joining the global chorus speaking out against anti-Black racism, several self-assembled Black employee groups at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the US medical research agency, became involved to address ongoing workplace racial inequities.

REGIONAL NEWS

Indiana Environmental Reporter: [Voluntary Approach to Renewable Energy Siting Passes Indiana Senate](#)

Senate Bill 411 will provide financial incentives to communities that choose to adopt certain renewable energy siting standards. The “commercial solar and wind energy ready communities development center” would certify communities as “commercial solar energy ready” or “commercial wind energy ready” on a voluntary basis.

Indy Star: [Indiana bill targets banks that divest from fossil fuels, says they can't do business here](#)

If you say no to doing business with fossil fuel companies, then Indiana will say no to doing business with you, according to a bill that is currently advancing through the Statehouse.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

CNN: [Europe's plan to call natural gas 'sustainable' triggers backlash from climate campaigners](#)

The EU labels natural gas and nuclear power as sustainable sources of energy. However, these plans have angered climate activists and could still be blocked by European lawmakers, who are also divided over the issue along national and political lines.

BBC: [Why switching asthma inhaler could be better for you and the planet](#)

Most aerosol asthma inhalers are cheap, but their gases are one of the NHS's biggest contributions to climate change. Scientists debate when patients should consider trying alternatives, such as dry powdered inhalers.

The News and Observer: [What the Winston-Salem fire says about environmental justice in North Carolina](#)

A fire caused over 500 tons of ammonium nitrate at a chemical plant in North Carolina to erupt in flames on Jan. 31. Those from the area were dismayed by the lack of communication and clarity of the plant’s proceedings.

TAKE ACTION AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

Hoosier Environmental Council: Oppose Anti-Environmental Bill, HB 1100

A bill to impose more limitations on state agency rulemaking – [HB 1100](#) – also contains controversial "no more stringent than" language, which would prevent the state from adopting environmental protection or other standards that are deemed "more stringent" than corresponding federal rules, even in situations where Indiana-specific standards are needed to protect Hoosiers and our environment.

HB 1100 passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Commerce and Technology Committee. Please ask [your state senator](#) to oppose HB 1100 and its "no more stringent than" language, and convey that opposition to Senator Chip Perfect (R-Lawrenceburg), Chairman of the Senate Commerce and Technology Committee.

The CSIU Weekly News Bulletin is now available on the web. To view this page online go to <https://csiub.org/weekly-news-bulletins>. To view archives of past bulletins, see <https://csiub.org/bulletin-archives>.

Our CSIU news bulletin is intended to provide a brief update on recent news, editorials, as well as action items related to science integrity and science policy. Note that editorial pieces and action items are assembled from a variety of sources and organizations; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy priorities of Concerned Scientists @ IU. This week's news bulletin was compiled by ASIU members sophomore Rose Schnabel, freshman Ana Lim, and (new to the team!) sophomore Amangul Hydyrova. If you'd like to volunteer—or if you have additional links you'd like to share for future bulletins, send them to Rose at raschnab@iu.edu.

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