



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

July 21, 2021.

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
The United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Senator Capito,

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is in receipt of your June 15, 2021 letter, regarding the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (Working Group) and requesting additional information and a 45-day extension to the public comment period for the Request for Information (RFI) on the “Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide Interim Estimates under Executive Order 13990.”<sup>1</sup> We appreciate your interest in this extremely important topic. As set forth in Executive Order (E.O.) 13990, “Our Nation has an abiding commitment to empower our workers and communities; promote and protect our public health and the environment; and conserve our national treasures and monuments, places that secure our national memory.”<sup>2</sup>

We agree that accountability and transparency are “critically important” in determinations regarding the use of the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (SC-GHG). We also recognize the need for a process informed by current science and feedback from the public. Such information will enable leaders to respond with the most effective solutions to address climate change.

The RFI was published on May 7, 2021, with comments to be submitted by June 21, 2021. The Working Group is already thoroughly reviewing the comments received in response to the RFI. Reopening the RFI at this point could severely hamper this much overdue work and challenge our ability to meet the deadlines set forth in E.O. 13990. Because it is important that no delays impede the Working Group’s task, and because we

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of Availability and Request for Comment on “Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide Interim Estimates under Executive Order 13990,” 86 Fed. Reg. 24,669 (May 7, 2021); <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/05/07/2021-09679/notice-of-availability-and-request-for-comment-on-technical-support-document-social-cost-of-carbon>.

<sup>2</sup> Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis (January 20, 2021); <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>.



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believe the 45-day comment period has provided adequate time for effective comment on this well-known issue, we are proceeding with the previously announced deadline.

Additionally, the Working Group provides the following answers to the questions posed in your June 12 letter:

1. The Working Group will consider all comments received during the public comment period and will do so in a manner that is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.
2. All comments received from this RFI will be posted on an agency website for public inspection.
3. The Working Group includes representation from the following agencies/departments:
  - a. Council of Economic Advisors,
  - b. Council on Environmental Quality,
  - c. Department of Agriculture,
  - a. Department of Commerce,
  - b. Department of Energy,
  - c. Department of Health and Human Services,
  - d. Department of the Interior,
  - e. Department of Transportation,
  - f. Department of the Treasury,
  - g. Environmental Protection Agency,
  - h. National Climate Advisor,
  - i. National Economic Council,
  - j. Office of Management and Budget, and
  - k. Office of Science and Technology Policy.
4. The Working Group is not planning on holding any public meetings.
5. The Working Group's analysis of the comments received in response to the RFI will inform decisions regarding whether to offer additional opportunities for public comment and stakeholder feedback.
6. The Working Group will follow all applicable APA rules and procedures as it engages in this process.



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We look forward to working with you on this pressing matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Lander", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Lander  
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology,  
Director of the White House Office of Science and  
Technology Policy