

EPA ORD Climate Survey Essays (2003)

Regarding: privatization of science or corporate/industry influence over science

“I will be most proud if ORD in the future when . . . we have an Administration in Washington that takes the environment seriously and is not so concerned with what makes big business and the oil industry happy; when the Administration doesn't reject the advice of its own scientists for political gains; and when good science instead of politics comes first.”

“Many of us in the labs feel like we work for contracts, OARM [Office of Administration and Resource Management] and HRMD [Human Resources Management Division] rather than they be service groups who work to make sure the science can get done.”

“I will be most proud of ORD in the future when . . . we do our job of providing the basic research, information and tools to fulfill our mission as an agency to protect the environment and human health regardless of the political climate and what agendas the current administration might have with regard to big business interests. I am frustrated that the EPA's mission and goals may be diluted by the political climate.”

“I believe the mission of ORD [Office of Research and Development], the evaluation and protection of the environment, is its most valued asset. Environmental protection is, in my opinion, the most important concern facing the human species, for should the environment fail us, all else is meaningless. Is this importance realized by the most, acknowledged by business and our government, and given the importance it should receive? No. However, to have an organization whose intent is to explore the problems facing planet earth and to try to solve these problems is an absolute necessity. Privatization of such an important endeavor is like letting the fox guard the henhouse. We should learn lessons from things like Enron and Worldcom . . . to business the almighty dollar for the select few comes first, at the expense of all else . . . I do think that a significant core of concerned scientists exists within ORD and they can make a difference provided they are given the support and altitude necessary in such an important area of research.”

“I will be most proud of ORD in the future when . . . science (research) excellence used as a foundation for regulatory decisions is accepted with only minimal question by science, industrial, private concerns.”

“I will be most proud of ORD in the future when . . . greater emphasis is placed on the environment and peoples [sic] health than on industry and profit.”

“I will be most proud of ORD in the future when . . . we are given the resources (personel [sic], funding) which allows us to do research 'in-house' and also allow us to establish [sic] university collaborations. This combination will allow the ORD to indeed be a world class research organization...not just the fancy verbage [sic] we're bombarded with.”