

December 13, 2003

Dr. Warren Washington, Chair - National Science Board
Dr. Rita Colwell, Director - National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Washington and Dr. Colwell:

I am writing to follow up the petition in my letter of December 2, 2003 (under the First Amendment right to petition for redress of grievances) also to petition the National Science Board to apply principles of justice, in addition to cancelling contracts with the NAS/NRC.

Specifically, I request that the National Science Board apply the same serious penalties as if the observed misconduct involved cancer research by a lower status contractor.¹

Both justice and deterrence require such penalties to send a public message that economics, and the economic welfare of the American people, are equivalent to areas of the physical sciences that members of the National Science Board are known to care about.

Sincerely,

/s/

(Dr.) Lloyd S. Etheredge

cc: Senator John McCain, Representative Sherwood Boehlert, Dr. John Marburger, Mr. Lawrence Rudolph

1. Our earlier letter used the example of the space shuttle Challenger; and also cancer research: “*Suppose that a lower-status contractor, responsible for fast discovery national cancer research, produced the same egregious intellectual failures and damage to patients as Dr. Alberts et al. have produced for economics research and policy? And an examination of the records showed that they had killed relevant statistical controls (e.g., equivalent to not washing test tubes) for research and field trials. That senior researchers had systematically derailed new, promising, and competing lines of research by younger researchers that might have falsified or replaced their own, older theories? And had made false claims that their work represented a “best science” consensus and representation of all views?*”

