

April 22, 2017

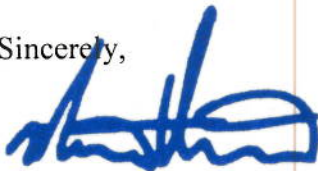
Dear March for Science Participants:

Congratulations to all the New Mexicans participating in the March for Science here in Santa Fe alongside over 500 other cities around the world. Host to three national laboratories and many research universities, New Mexico has long played an important role in developing the innovations that will drive our nation's economy in the future. I met this week with UNM faculty to hear about important research funded by the National Science Foundation and tour an environmental engineering lab on campus. All of our research capabilities are an important part of the economic and societal well-being of our state, and I know New Mexicans are proud to contribute in this way to our country.

You are participating today because you know you cannot choose your own facts and that science should never be silenced. In its first month, the Trump Administration took disturbing actions that send a chilling message to scientists working on applied energy research and climate science at New Mexico's labs and universities. The success of that work depends on scientists being able to openly share their findings with both peers and the public. Attempts to squash scientific endeavors to advance purely ideological or political agendas will greatly damage our nation's ability to develop new technologies and compete in the global economy. Our capacity to seize the opportunities before us and deal with the many challenges we face rests heavily on making policy driven by facts, by data, and by science. This is why I co-sponsored the Scientific Integrity Bill to reaffirm the principle of open communication of science in our federal agencies, without the fear of retribution.

I want to thank you all for your support of science this Earth Day. I will continue to do my utmost to ensure your message is heard in Congress.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator