

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 30, 2021

Reply to Attn of: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Mr. Devin Watkins, Attorney
Mr. Sam Kazman, General Counsel
Competitive Enterprise Institute
1310 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 2020, requesting reconsideration of NASA's Information Quality Act (IQA) decision dated March 11, 2020. Your request for reconsideration, NASA's decision of March 11, 2020, and your previous letter of July 9, 2019, pertain to a website located at <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/> containing language which you allege violates the IQA.

Your request for reconsideration has been reviewed in accordance with NASA's published appeal guidelines¹ and OMB's M-19-15 implementation guidelines.² NASA convened a panel³ to review this appeal and determined that correction to the information is not warranted. The findings of the panel are articulated below.⁴

The original request and subsequent appeal claim that NASA states "[n]inety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities." You state that this statistic has been disputed. This language, as quoted in your request and appeal, is a portion of the full sentence and omits pertinent contextual language contained in the source material.

¹ https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/517756main_FINAL_NASA_guidelines.pdf

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/M-19-15.pdf>

³ The individuals reviewing the appeal were independent of those who prepared the initial response. The review panel was convened by the Chief Information Officer and included a Deputy Administrator from the Science Mission Directorate. Although the decision was generated by the appeals panel, the response is issued by the undersigned.

NASA's determination is therefore based on the complete sentence as it appears on the website rather than the portion quoted in your request and appeal that inaccurately attributes the information to NASA. The relevant portion of the website states:

“Multiple studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals show that 97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree: Climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities.”

The key contextual phrase is “Multiple studies published in peer reviewed scientific Journals show...”. There are multiple citations of peer-reviewed articles identified on the website. Even if some peer-reviewed studies come to different conclusions, such studies, if they exist, do not invalidate the accuracy of this statement.

As we update our website to remain current with the most recent scientific findings, we will ensure that we continue to use precise language in discussions on consensus, the scientific process and the evidence available.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Seaton
Agency Chief Information Officer

cc:
Science Mission Directorate/Dr. St. Germain