



Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee

Sen. Brandon Smith

Sen. Gex Williams

Sen. Gary Boswell

Sen. Jared Carpenter

Sen. Greg Elkins

Sen. Rick Girdler

Sen. Keturah J. Herron

Sen. Scott Madon

Sen. Robby Mills

Sen. Robin L. Webb

Sen. Stephen West

Sen. Phillip Wheeler

February 24, 2026

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the Kentucky Academy of Science, I urge you to follow sound science and reject SB178. This bill would harm Kentuckians' health and our environment. Repealing or downgrading existing environmental regulations is inconsistent with the best science available.

This bill states an intention to follow the best science available and yet contradicts itself by also stating "Any administrative regulation related to setting an applicable environmental requirement shall not be more stringent or extensive in scope, coverage, or effect than any federal law or regulation regarding the same or a substantially similar topic" This contradiction limits Kentucky's own authority to use science to set appropriate regulations to protect our health, and to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

The Precautionary Principle is a fundamental legal principle that requires those proposing a new activity to demonstrate its safety, rather than placing the burden on the public to prove that it is harmful. This bill requires the opposite, enabling pollution and profits to be prioritized over public safety, thus putting the environment and public health in substantial risk of harm.

I urge you to respect scientific evidence and ensure that Kentucky retains the ability to use strong science into the future, to establish and maintain regulations that protect Kentucky's health and a clean environment. If SB 178 were adopted, state agencies would be unable to adopt protections more stringent than federal law, even where Kentucky-specific risks, geography, or exposure conditions justify stronger safeguards. Furthermore, if federal standards were to be weakened, Kentucky would be required to follow. Please do not forfeit Kentucky's authority to use scientific evidence and do what's best for Kentuckians.

I ask you to follow the science and reject SB 178.

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The Kentucky Academy of Science was established in 1914 and serves as the Commonwealth's own scientific society. Our mission is to improve research, education, and evidence-based public engagement in Kentucky. We are more than 5000 members throughout the Commonwealth, from Paducah to Pikeville, in higher education, industry, government and K-12 education. We are here to serve you and strive to bring policymakers the best science available so that you can make informed decisions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sincerely,
Amanda Fuller
Executive Director, Kentucky Academy of Science