

Few would argue that current US Federal policy around the conduct of science (e.g. funding for scientific research) is well-matched to the needs of the scientific community. Similarly, there are many policy areas (e.g. energy policy and climate change) where ideas and concepts from scientists do not carry the influence we might like. I spent a one-year sabbatical working as a science policy advisor for a member of the US Congress, and during this time I came to appreciate how much of this disconnect between science and policy is the fault of scientists. In this talk, I will describe what I saw as some of the primary mistakes scientists make and describe how we might, as a community, do better to productively engage policymakers.