



May 1, 2018

The Honorable E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: Request to extend comment period for proposed rulemaking
"Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science; Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259"**

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

On behalf of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), a membership organization representing academic and research libraries at more than 220 colleges and universities across the country, I am writing to respectfully request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extend the comment period for the above-referenced proposed rule to a minimum of ninety (90) days.

The proposed rule published in the Federal Register on April 30, 2018 will significantly impact how science can be used by the EPA in the regulatory decision-making process. The EPA is rightly soliciting comments on a large number of complex scientific and technical issues that require careful and in-depth analysis, but the current 30-day comment period does not provide sufficient time for the broad range of stakeholders, who would like to participate in this process, to prepare thoughtful, detailed responses.

Public input on this proposed rule, which could have significant consequences on the ability of EPA to adequately protect the public from the impacts of air pollution, unsafe chemicals, and other public health and environmental hazards, is of critical importance. We, therefore, also ask that you hold a series of at least three public hearings in geographically diverse locations around the United States to ensure robust public contribution to this important process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter; we look forward to receiving your acknowledgment of these requests, and look forward to your response.

Respectfully yours,

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

Heather Joseph
Executive Director