

Scientists hold rally in Boston to protest threat to science

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Neuroscientist Shruti Muralidhar, front left, and microbiologist Abhishek Chari, front right, hold placards and chant during a demonstration by members of the scientific community, environmental advocates, and supporters, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017, in Boston. The scientists at the event said they want President Donald Trump's administration to recognize evidence of climate change and take action on various environmental issues. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

Hundreds of scientists, environmental advocates and their supporters held a rally in Boston on Sunday to protest what they see as increasing

threats to science and research in the U.S.

The scientists, some dressed in white lab coats, called on President Donald Trump's administration to recognize evidence of climate change and take action on various environmental issues.

Geoffrey Supran, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who studies renewable energy solutions to climate change, said scientists are responding to the Trump administration's "anti-science rhetoric."

"We're really trying to send a message today to Mr. Trump that America runs on science, science is the backbone of our prosperity and progress," Supran said.

The "Rally to Stand Up for Science" in Boston's Copley Square was held outside of the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting, one of the first major gatherings of scientists since Trump was elected in November.

Protesters held signs that read "Science Matters," "Scientists Pursuing Truth, Saving the World" and "Make America Smart Again."

Some of those who turned out criticized Trump's appointment of Scott Pruitt as head of the Environmental Protection Agency over the objections of environmental groups.

During six years as the attorney general of Oklahoma, Pruitt filed 14 lawsuits challenging EPA regulations. He previously expressed skepticism about scientific evidence showing the planet is heating up and that humans are to blame. However, during his Senate confirmation hearing last month, he said he disagreed with Trump's past statements that global warming is a hoax.



Members of the scientific community, environmental advocates, and supporters demonstrate Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017, in Boston, to call attention to what they say are the increasing threats to science and scientific research under the administration of President Donald Trump. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)



Johanna Klein, of Brookline, Mass., an internal medical doctor, center, holds a placard and chants during a demonstration by members of the scientific community, environmental advocates and supporters, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017, in Boston. The scientists at the event said they want President Donald Trump's administration to recognize evidence of climate change and take action on various environmental issues. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)



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