January 27, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Halt Urged to Proposed Administration Policy that Would Stifle Technological and Research Innovation by Mandating the Free Distribution of Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Dear President Trump:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) urges your administration to immediately halt a proposed policy by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) that would force peer-reviewed journal articles to be immediately freely distributed. This policy is neither asked for nor desired, as it would damage technological and research innovation in the United States and disrupt the private marketplace.

Stop this Proposed Policy to Protect a Vital Engine of American Leadership
There is never a time when damaging U.S. science and technological innovation is appropriate. A better course would be for your administration to continue supporting the existing private marketplace system that has served as an engine of progress for the United States, establishing the nation as a global leader. The existing system protects the right of journals to charge for access to their articles, which fuels the ability of those journals to continue producing high-quality content. This system is a key component of the larger knowledge-development machine that has drawn the admiration of many other nations and deserves to be protected from this mistaken proposed policy before lasting damage is done to the United States.

Background on AIHA
AIHA and our members have a reach that extends to millions of people, with solid credibility that is built from 81 years of service to the occupational and environmental health and safety community. Specifically, AIHA has 8,500 members who represent a
cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government, and academia. We maintain 68 active Local Sections, more than 50 volunteer groups and have partnership agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations representing the full spectrum of worker health and safety vocations. AIHA also produces several award-winning publications, including the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (JOEH). The JOEH, which is jointly published by AIHA and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH®), is a peer-reviewed publication that provides a written medium for the communication of ideas, methods, processes and research in the areas of occupational, industrial and environmental hygiene; exposure assessment; engineering controls; occupational and environmental epidemiology, medicine, and toxicology; ergonomics; and other related disciplines. For additional information, please visit http://bit.ly/JOEH-AIHA.

Conclusion and Next Steps
AIHA urges you to reconsider and halt this proposed policy, which would likely cause immediate and lasting harm to the United States and its leadership in the world. For additional information, please contact Mark Ames at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Sloan, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
AIHA