

Public Policy Office  
Report for AIBS Council of Member  
Societies and Organizations  
May 2009

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# Policy Issues -- Government

- New environment → \$ for R&D and Ed
  - Obama, Pelosi → both like science, R&D required to transform economy and solve problems
- Science appointments have been a priority
- Appears to be commitment to deal with climate change, but...heavy lift, lots of competing interests
- Policy in regulatory process – big challenges, but push for greater transparency

# Policy Issues -- other

- NRC study on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Biology – still moving, still heavily focused on medical
- Still a lot of talk in DC about questions driving funding, interdisciplinary research, science for diplomacy, etc
- Creationism/intelligent design still around, but focus has been on Texas lately

# PPO at a Glance

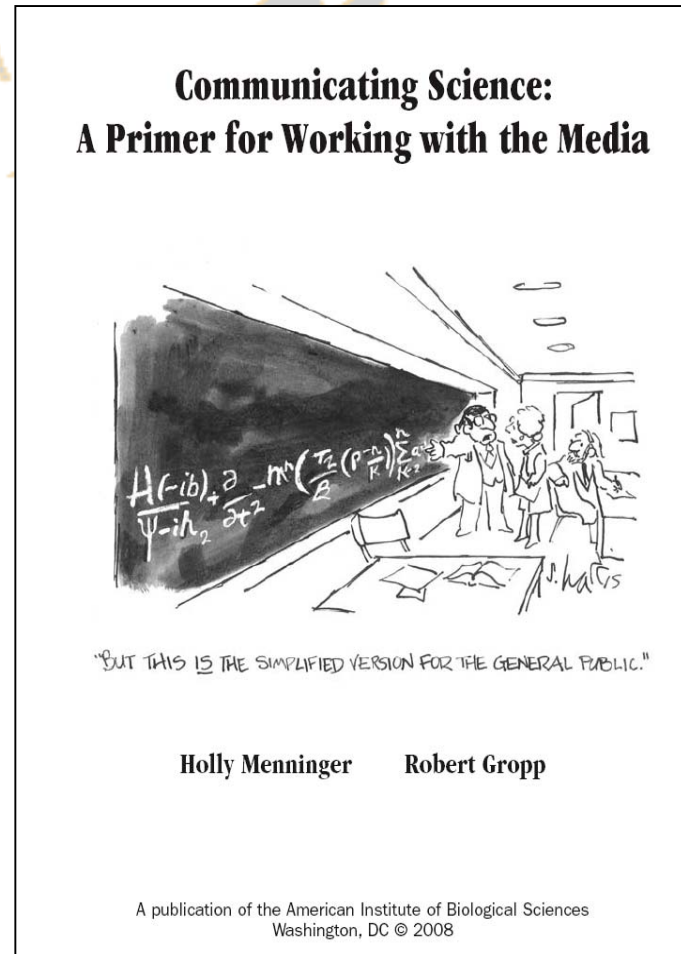
- Remained busy last year
- New public policy staff: Julie Palakovich Carr and Jenna Jadin
- Keep up to date with all we do – go to [www.aibs.org/public-policy](http://www.aibs.org/public-policy)

# A Few Highlights

- Conducted/facilitated 125 congressional meetings during the 110th Congress, through BESC recognized 4 members of Congress. Through USGS Coalition, Rep. Dicks (D-WA) and Regula (R-OH) were recognized for their support of the USGS.
- In the 111th Congress, PPO has conducted/facilitated roughly 45 meetings with congressional offices. Through BESC, Senator Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Hinchey (D-NY) have been recognized for support of biological and agricultural research.
- Spoke to the April 2008 NSF Biology Advisory Committee meeting on “Biology in the Federal Science Enterprise.”
- Co-chair two national policy coalitions (BESC, USGS Coalition).
- Cosponsored two debates between representatives of the presidential campaigns (one on health, one on energy policy).
- Conducted policy/media training at meetings of the Society of Wetland Scientists (2008), University of Notre Dame Biology Department (2009), New Mexico EPSCoR Junior Faculty Program (2009), Long Term Ecological Research Network Science Meeting (September 2009), and Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (September 2009).

# Policy Communication

- Continue to sell the Primer through the AIBS Bookstore
- Bi-weekly Public Policy Report, Washington Watch, item for LTER News, Policy Reports for NSC Alliance
- Helping AERC with 2009 Hill briefing
- Workshops at LTER and AERC this September



# Advocacy

- Launched AIBS Legislative Action Center
- BESC/CoFARM Congressional Visits Day
- Testimony: NSF, USGS, EPA
- Comments to OSTP



# Advocacy Training



- Julie and Jenna will demonstrate how easy the Legislative Action Center is to use in just a moment.
- Use it anytime at <http://capwiz.com/aibs/home/>
- Please share this information with your society membership.



# Get Involved

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