

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

February 7, 2022

Dear Mr. President:

It has been a great honor to serve as your Science Advisor and to work with the extraordinarily talented career and non-career colleagues at the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

I am writing to submit my resignation, to be effective no later than February 18 in order to permit an orderly transfer.

I am devastated that I caused hurt to past and present colleagues by the way in which I have spoken to them.

We have assembled the most amazing set of people at OSTP, and we have together set out the most ambitious goals that this agency has ever attempted. I have sought to push myself and my colleagues to reach our shared goals — including at times challenging and criticizing.

But it is clear that things I said, and the way I said them, crossed the line at times into being disrespectful and demeaning, to both men and women. That was never my intention.

Nonetheless, it is my fault and my responsibility. I will take this lesson forward.

I believe it is not possible to continue effectively in my role, and the work of this office is far too important to be hindered.

I want to take this opportunity to lift up the work of OSTP.

At the start of your Administration, you charged OSTP and me with answering five questions that could help us employ science and technology to guide the nation for decades. OSTP, as well as PCAST, have been making strong progress on this work.

- With respect to the lessons to be learned from this pandemic, OSTP is focused on work ranging from pandemic preparedness to accelerating biomedical progress in cancer and other diseases.
- With respect to the contributions of science and technology to solving the climate crisis, OSTP is focused on the opportunities for bold new game-changing clean-energy technologies, from fusion to electro-fuels.
- With respect to ensuring the Nation's global leadership in science and technology, OSTP is focused on how to enhance basic research, support commercialization, protect national security, and, most of all, ensure that the United States remains the magnet for the world's talent.
- With respect to ensuring that the benefits of science and technology are broadly shared by all Americans, OSTP created its first-ever Science and Society division, which has been focused on achieving equity in STEM fields and STEM education, as well as bill of rights for an automated society, scientific integrity, and open science.
- With respect to guaranteeing the long-term health of the STEM ecosystem, OSTP has been focused on this issue in all of its work.

The brilliant team at OSTP will continue this work to its completion.

I am so grateful to you for the opportunity to serve, and for your kindness over the years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Lander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric S. Lander