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The American Oil Chemists' Society Governing Board has endorsed, in principle, the "Affirmation of Freedom of Inquiry and Expression" of the National Academy of Sciences adopted by NAS April 27, 1976. At the Fall Meeting in Chicago, the board directed that the affirmation be published in the Journal so that members would have the opportunity to sign the affirmation and mail it to NAS. Members who chose to sign the declaration should mail it to NAS at the address below the declaration.

Affirmation of Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

I hereby affirm my dedication to the following principles:

... That the search for knowledge and understanding of the physical universe and of the living things that inhabit them should be conducted under conditions of intellectual freedom, without religious, political, or ideological restriction.

... That all discoveries and ideas should be disseminated and may be challenged without such restriction.

... That freedom of inquiry and dissemination of ideas require that those so engaged be free to search where their inquiry leads, free to travel, and free to publish their findings without political censorship and without fear of retribution in consequence of unpopularity of their conclusions. Those who challenge existing theory must be protected from retaliatory reactions.

... That freedom of inquiry and expression is fostered by personal freedom of those who inquire and challenge, seek and discover.

... That the preservation and extension of personal freedom are dependent on all of us, individually and collectively, supporting and working for application of the principles enunciated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and upholding a universal belief in the worth and dignity of each human being.

Date _____ Signed _____

I would prefer, for personal reasons, that my name not be made public as a signer of this document.

Signed statements should be directed to the Commission on International Relations, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.