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"Politics hijacking the regulatory process"

Written by TATT Blogger

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"The USDA's Anti-Science Activism" by Henry I. Miller and Gregory Conko is in the Summer 2011 edition of Regulation.

The gentlemen are both well-respected experts and are tackling an issue that needs more attention - as the subtitle say, politics are hijacking the regulatory process. (TATT also touched on a related topic recently in "A Call for Common Sense Biotech Regulation" by Ted Sheely - August 11, 2011.)

Regulation is a publication from the CATO Institute. The opening and link to the full piece are below:

The USDA's Anti-Science Activism

Politics are hijacking the regulatory process.

By Henry Miller and Gregory Conko

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack must have been on vacation the day President Obama pledged in 2009 that "Science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions" made by his administration and that "political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions." Why else would Vilsack, last December, have disregarded his own department's scientific review and conclusion that a new, genetically engineered crop variety should be approved because it is safe for humans and the environment?...

Read the full article here: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv34n2/regv34n2-6.pdf>

Henry I. Miller, a physician, is the Robert Wesson Fellow in Scientific Philosophy and Public Policy at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He was the founding director of the Office of Biotechnology at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Gregory Conko is senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

They are the co-authors of the 2004 book The Frankenfood Myth.

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