July 6, 2023

Dear Valued Members and Partners of the Health Physics Society,

In a first of its kind activity, the Health Physics Society (HPS) Board of Directors has voted to censure HPS President John Cardarelli, in a formal expression of disapproval. The vote was taken principally in response to his unilateral action to send a letter to Congress on HPS letterhead, without first seeking input or consent from the Board, and contrary to advice from Agency and Congressional liaisons.

This unprecedented action was taken after repeated instances where President Cardarelli initiated activities that did not fully involve or inform the elected Board of Directors. As such, some of the recent messages or statements of the President were not a complete reflection of the shared perspective of our Board or the broader HPS membership. According to the Society Bylaws, the Board of Directors is the governing body of the Society and, as such, is meant to “exercise control over all funds, properties, activities, and policies of the society in accordance with the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and rules of the Society.”

Our Board has a deep respect for the need for accurate, clear, and comprehensive communication on matters that relate to our Society’s views on vital scientific topics. We are fully committed to ensuring that any information circulated under the HPS banner accurately embodies the collective views and decisions of the full Board, consistent with the Society’s established positions, rather than those of an individual or small set of individuals working in isolation from those elected to reflect all members’ views.

We want to assure every member and partner that the Board’s commitment to transparency, collaboration, and democratic governance remains unwavering. We are dedicated to ensuring that the actions of our Society, its elected officials, and its representatives uphold these values consistently.

As we navigate this situation, we sincerely appreciate your understanding and patience. We are committed to addressing this matter thoroughly and ensuring that such instances do not occur in the future. We value your trust in the Board of Directors and the wider HPS leadership, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

We pledge to keep you informed as we continue to assess the situation and determine our next steps. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the Health Physics Society.

Nicole Martinez, Secretary (2023)
Kendall Berry, Treasurer (2024)
Kathryn Higley, Director (2023)
Jama D VanHome-Sealy, Director (2023)
Michael Boyd, Director (2024)
Adela Salame-Alfie, Director (2024)
Shaheen Dewji, Director (2025)
Angela Leek, Director (2025)