

# **Public Written Comments**

**Submitted to PCAST**  
**November 7, 2014 - January 7, 2015**

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PCAST's agenda: President Obama's message of 11/20

**From:** "Lloyd Etheredge" [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, December 3, 2014 7:51 am

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Dear PCAST Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members:

If President Obama's recent remarks (11/20/2014) about American scientists ("**we're not afraid to ask questions**") were shaped by Dr. Holdren and PCAST, thank you! The enclosed letter to PCAST urges a follow-up to this message. With your leadership and the courage to ask questions we can improve economic science swiftly and break through the political impasse in Washington.

My letter brings to your attention the exciting opportunity for a test of two competing models, based on the model of the Michelson-Morley experiment (1887) and an Honest Broker design to be created by PCAST.

The letter includes a reference to the 11/24/2014 column by the Nobelist economist and New York Times columnist, Paul Krugman, acknowledging the competing arguments about missing variables and unmeasured coefficients: "**The intellectual leaders of the new majority in Congress still insist that we're living in an Ayn Rand novel.**" Krugman is exactly right. The empirical question of whether Americans **are** living inside an Ayn Rand novel can be answered with PCAST's scientific leadership and courage.

with my best regards,  
Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Project Director  
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Please reply to: [REDACTED]

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