

Humility

A common characteristic of the world's greatest scientists is humility.

Science seeks to discover things about the physical world. Errors are revealed through experiments. It is a humbling experience.

Politics is different. Politicians rarely admit to major errors because it looks bad politically. They usually hide them. They do "technical fix" bills.

I have yet to see a bill carrier get up and say: "It turns out that law I convinced you to pass last year was a bad idea. This bill repeals it."

A wildfire bill that has not been implemented yet – due to a disastrous initial rollout – is even being given credit for changes in the weather that led to fewer wildfires last year.

Isaac Newton was the greatest scientist who ever lived. Towards the end of his life he said:

"I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

Colleagues, politics *should* be a humbling experience.

Most scientific ideas are shown to be wrong by experiments. The laws we pass here are experiments too.

Let's try for a little more humility.