

Warnings without Power Are Futile

In your November issue, you published an important “Second Notice” warning to humanity, following a 1992 “Warning to Humanity.” In August, a distinguished group of experts called on the United Nations to ban the production and use of robot killers. Stephen Hawking warns of the harmful effects of AI. And so on and on...

But all this is whistling in the wind unless it is accompanied by social,

economic, and especially political power. Getting more scientists active politically and climbing to the top of power hierarchies is essential for warnings, however well supported by scientific findings, to have real effects.

Otherwise, the relatively most optimistic outlook is that minor catastrophes will serve as a whip teaching humanity to be more prudent and bring a much-improved genre of political leaders to the fore. But the learning

price may be very high, and correct learning cannot be assured.

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doi:10.1093/biosci/biy008