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January 18, 2017

Greetings Director Frieden,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), we wish to thank you for both your service to our country as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and for your support of entomological science, particularly as it relates to tackling arthropod-borne diseases and vector control.

As you are aware, entomologists have long been at the forefront of preventing vector-borne diseases. With a rise in international travel and pervasive environmental conditions conducive to vector population growth, the risk of infectious diseases has increased dramatically. Following the widespread outbreak of diseases such as Zika virus both domestically and abroad, vector control has become a more urgent priority than it has been in decades. Sustained research on vector-borne diseases is critical to maintaining the health and security of the public, and we appreciate your continued advocacy for science-based decision-making. At ESA, we have advocated and will continue to advocate for the CDC and its essential role in responding to, mitigating, and preventing insect-related threats to public health and safety.

We have applauded your efforts to stress the importance of scientific research to support informed policy through your testimony before Congressional committees. We have also appreciated your comments highlighting the importance of entomologists in public health and disease transmission control strategies to members of Congress as well as to the greater public.

We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope, regardless of whatever you pursue next, that you will continue to think of the entomological community as allies and that you won't hesitate to reach out if we can ever provide support or expertise. Thank you again for your service.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "May B. Berenbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

May Berenbaum, PhD
Past President ESA
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Weller". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long vertical stroke at the end.

Susan Weller, PhD
President ESA
University of Nebraska State Museum