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October 9, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Shelby, Leahy, Blunt and Murray,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and our approximately 7,000 members, I am writing to you to express our appreciation for the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations minibus.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) advances health by supporting research on basic human and pathogen biology and by developing prevention and treatment strategies, and we appreciate the \$2 billion increase overall. As one of NIH's 27 institutes and centers, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) conducts and supports fundamental and applied research related to the understanding, prevention, and treatment of infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. Given the enormous impact of arthropod vectors on human health, ESA appreciates the increased support for vector-borne disease research programs that incorporate the entomological sciences as part of a comprehensive approach to addressing infectious diseases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serves as the nation's leading health protection agency. The CDC performs a critical role in conducting scientific research and providing health information to prevent and respond to infectious diseases and other global health threats. Within the core infectious diseases budget of CDC, the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) aims to protect the nation from the threat of viruses and bacteria transmitted primarily by mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas. DVBD's mission is carried out by a staff of experts in several scientific disciplines, including entomology. Robust funding for CDC should continue to be a priority in the interest of American public health.

The resources provided by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are invaluable to the education and success of American communities, and we thank you for the \$2 million increase. IMLS plays an important role in supporting research, collections, and training capabilities for libraries and museums. These institutions are an integral part of the nation's academic infrastructure and make significant long-term contributions to economic development in local communities. At a time when information is increasingly published and stored digitally, IMLS is critical to training students to be resourceful investigators and intellectual leaders, ensuring that scientific organizations and educational institutions can continue to produce reputable and transformational research.

ESA appreciates the bipartisan support which led to robust Labor-HHS appropriations for FY 2019, and we hope to see stable, sustained growth for the future. ESA is available to provide scientific consultation

and entomological expertise to devise or assess policy; please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Thank you again for your attention to and your decisive action supporting these critical agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. P. Parrella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael P. Parrella, Ph.D.

2018 President, Entomological Society of America