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Jamie K. Reaser
Executive Director
National Invasive Species Council (OS/NISC)
1849 C Street NW (Mailstop 3530)
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Dear Dr. Reaser:

On behalf of the nearly 7,000 members of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I would like to respond to your call for nominations for the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) as reported in the Federal Register (www.federalregister.gov/d/2017-27829).

ESA is the largest entomological society in the world and includes thousands of experts on insects and other arthropods and the impacts that they have on all aspects of humanity, from food production to public health, and biodiversity. Our members are experts on a wide variety of entomological topics.

Today ESA is proud to endorse the nomination of a well-known expert on invasive species, Dr. Robert C. Venette (University of Minnesota and USDA Forest Service), to serve on the ISAC.

Dr. Venette is the Director of the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Science at the University of Minnesota. In that role, he provides intellectual leadership and administrative guidance to focus research on solutions that will protect Minnesota's forests, prairies, wetlands, and agriculture from invasive species. He works closely with nonprofit and for-profit sectors, government, and other educational and research organizations to achieve the Center's mission.

Dr. Venette also leads a research program within the Northern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service to protect trees and forests from invasive species. He specializes in the areas of pest risk assessment and invasion biology and has been active in invasive species research for the past 26 years. Dr. Venette is recognized regionally, nationally, and internationally for his research to demonstrate how pest risks vary spatially (i.e., pest risk mapping). In his career, he has studied diverse invasive insects that affect agriculture (e.g., pink bollworm, soybean aphid, and more), trees (e.g., emerald ash borer, walnut twig beetle, and more), or both (e.g., brown marmorated stink bug, spotted wing drosophila).

He received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis.

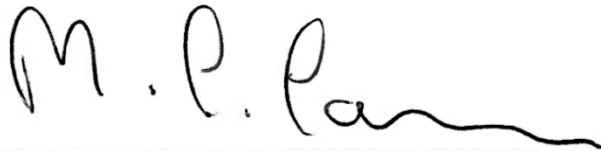
It has been estimated that invasive insect species alone incur control costs of over \$2.5 billion annually and agricultural losses of at least \$18 billion annually, and the costs on natural systems and human well-being are incalculable. Invasive insects carry the Zika virus, are devastating our citrus industry, and have destroyed an estimated 50 million ash trees.

Management and control of invasive arthropod species is a core focus for ESA and a central tenet of the Grand Challenges in Entomology Initiative. It will be the topic of an innovative summit in Vancouver this November in a partnership between ESA and our Canadian and Vancouver societal counterparts.

The addition of Dr. Venette to the ISAC will help to ensure that arthropods remain an important part of the conversation. Further, his expertise will help to inform the dialogue of this important group. We strongly encourage you to consider his nomination favorably.

If ESA can be of service to you as a resource to help inform public policy, please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

With regards,

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

Dr. Michael P. Parrella
President, Entomological Society of America