



3 Park Place, Suite 307
Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA

Phone: 301-731-4535
Fax: 301-731-4538

esa@entsoc.org
www.entsoc.org

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Roberts, and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of the more than 7,000 members of the Entomological Society of America, I am writing to you today to offer support for the nomination of Dr. Scott Hutchins, Fellow of ESA and a Board Certified Entomologist, to become the Undersecretary of Research, Education, and Economics for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As this role also serves as chief scientist for the USDA, it is important that the nominee has a strong record of supporting independent and evidence-based science. With his 30 years of research in both industry and academia, Dr. Hutchins is just such an individual.

Dr. Hutchins is a recognized expert in integrated pest management (IPM) in both agricultural and urban environments, especially in economic decision-making (i.e., combining biology with economics to improve the sustainable management of pests). He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for more than 20 years and has been active in research and teaching, including the training of graduate students, arrangement of guest lectures, and organization of professional development workshops. Additionally, in keeping with his belief in the vital role of nongovernmental organizations, he has a long track record of volunteer service to his professional academic society, the Entomological Society of America (ESA), including having served as President in 2007, when he led a successful effort to restructure the society. Much of the recent growth and impact of ESA is a direct result of his efforts. Dr. Hutchins is also a, a credential that ensures that he adheres to the principles of continuing education and high ethical standards.

Moreover, Dr. Hutchins has a strong track record of supporting the training and development needs of scientists, including early-career scientists and women in academia. He has led his company to support the Women in Entomology network for more than six years as part of the ESA annual conference. Further, his experience as a volunteer, global corporate leader, and educator all show evidence of decades of support to develop the talent pipeline, ensuring that future educators and leaders have a solid scientific foundation.

Combined with his extensive qualifications as a scientist, Dr. Hutchins also offers the experience of 30 years of employment within the agricultural industry. As a global leader for research and development for a multinational corporation, he brings a unique perspective and understanding of agriculture to this

position. With between 10 and 16 percent of the world's crops currently being lost to insect pests—enough to feed nearly 9 percent of the world's population—agricultural pesticides are an essential part of the equation for feeding the world's 7 billion people. Dr. Hutchins understands that the careful use of pesticides in an environmentally sustainable manner is a part of any IPM program and, when administered correctly, can result in more food for more people. Further, with his deep scientific training, he understands that not all pest solutions have a chemical solution and that IPM programs seek opportunities for non-chemical pest management solutions where they are feasible and sustainable.

Dr. Hutchins is also known as a convener and a consensus builder. In his time as an ESA volunteer leader, he has consistently worked to bring underrepresented voices to the table and to build support for major decisions among all interested parties. We expect Dr. Hutchins will continue his career-long consensus-based approach and gather input from all sectors, while also ensuring that decisions are made on the best scientific evidence available.

We urge you to support the nomination of Dr. Hutchins to become the Undersecretary of Research, Education, and Economics for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quite simply, he is the right candidate at the right time to lead this important federal agency's scientific endeavors.

If ESA can be of service to you as you contemplate this nomination, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. K. Peterson', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert K. D. Peterson, Ph.D.
2019 President, Entomological Society of America