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June 23, 2020

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: ESA Support for the *Murder Hornet Eradication Act of 2020* (H.R. 6761)

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I write to express our support for the *Murder Hornet Eradication Act of 2020* (H.R. 6761). ESA is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and individuals in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA has more than 7,000 members affiliated with educational institutions, science agencies, private industry, and government. Pollinator health and invasive insect species are two of ESA's top priorities, and with this bill, which aims to assist states in eradicating the Asian giant hornet and restore pollinator populations impacted by its invasion, brings attention to both issues.

The Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) is one of the latest examples of the myriad invasive species which constitute growing threats to domestic public health, ecosystem stability, and economic prosperity. In recent years, invasive pests such as the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) and the emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*) have caused widespread damage to forests and incurred billions of dollars in costs to the U.S. agricultural sector. Invasive species such as the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can also serve as vectors for pathogens like the Zika virus, highlighting the hazards they pose to human health if not kept in check by effective control methods. Countering and managing the spread of such species through coordinated rapid response plans will only become more critical as the world continues to become more interconnected via global shipping and transit.

Due to the challenges mentioned above and the growing threat of invasive species to American health and the environment, ESA is pleased to endorse H.R. 6761. In addition, we stand ready to assist the House Committee on Natural Resources on legislation that aims to stop the spread and proliferation of species in new regions through the application of novel technologies and approaches to risk assessment, detection, monitoring, eradication (when feasible), and management of established pests. We specifically wish to emphasize our support for integrated pest management (IPM), which uses science-based, environmentally-conscious, comprehensive methods to take effective management action against pests once they become established, often resulting in lower costs and a more targeted use of pesticides. On behalf of ESA, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Robert K.D. Peterson, Ph.D.
Science Policy Committee Chair and 2019 President, Entomological Society of America
Professor of Entomology, Montana State University