



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SHARING INSECT SCIENCE GLOBALLY

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January 11, 2021

The Honorable Jake Auchincloss
United States House of Representatives
1524 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Auchincloss,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I write to extend my congratulations on your election to serve as an esteemed member of the 117th U.S. Congress.

As you embark on leading our nation into the future as part of Congress, consider that many of the grand challenges we face nationally and globally are in fact driven by some of our smallest fellow inhabitants on Earth: insects. More than half of all species on our planet are insects and related arthropods. With 1.5-2 million species alone already known to science, they play vital roles in the daily lives of all Americans. Whether your constituents are concerned about the source of the food on their table, avoiding diseases, preventing home and property damage caused by pests, or even bolstering STEM education, insects play an outsized role. That is where we come in.

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 over 7,000 members affiliated with educational institutions, health agencies, private industry, and government. Members are researchers, teachers, extension service personnel, administrators, marketing representatives, technicians, consultants, students, agricultural advisors, pest management professionals, and hobbyists.

Our entomologists' areas of expertise cut across many topics including public health, national security, and agriculture. Some that may be addressed in the 117th Congress include, but are not limited to:

- Development of the next Farm Bill
- Impacts of climate change, especially on biodiversity loss
- Invasive arthropod species
- Public health infrastructure and infectious disease
- Sustainable agriculture and alternative protein sources
- Pest management strategies.

We hope that you will think of ESA as a resource as you and your staff seek to understand these complex and nuanced issues. ESA welcomes the opportunity to provide scientific consultation to your office or any other that may require entomological expertise to devise or assess policy. Whether that means providing context on the threat posed by the Asian giant hornets (referred to in the media as "murder hornets") or other invasive insects in your state, ways to help promote pollinator health, effective strategies to prevent bites by ticks and mosquitoes, or whatever other concerns your constituents may have related to arthropods, especially when it pertains to breaking news, we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Thank you for your attention and best wishes as you start this honorable position serving the nation.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michelle Smith, BCE
2021 President, Entomological Society of America