



Ecological Society of America  
1990 M Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

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March 31, 2014

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
House Science, Space and Technology  
Committee  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
House Science, Space and Technology  
Committee  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

As the world's largest organization of professional ecological scientists, the 10,000 member Ecological Society of America (ESA) would like to voice its support for Section 303 of H.R. 4186, the "Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology (FIRST) Act."

ESA is a publisher of five peer reviewed journals. These publications help us disseminate scientific findings and discoveries to the broader ecological research community and the general public through a number of conduits. Our publications have been spotlighted at conferences, educational sessions and policy briefings that the society either sponsors or participates in as well as being widely distributed around the world.

The language of Section 303 helps ensure smaller publishers like ESA have the means to continue to dispense quality peer-reviewed scholarly research. ESA depends upon its journals for a significant source of revenue which we use to support not only our publications, but also our educational and scientific activities. All our revenue goes back to our members and the larger scientific society through our programs.

We appreciate that this language calls for the development of public access policies through a transparent process that includes input from a wide array of stakeholders, including higher institutions, publishers and other members of the broader scientific community. Expanding public access to federally funded research is best fostered through a multidisciplinary collaborative effort that acknowledges the evolving dissemination of scientific data while sustaining the capability of the scholarly publishing community to innovate and advance new methods of information sharing.

While the Society has concerns with the FIRST Act's overall authorization levels and other aspects of the bill, we appreciate the balance Section 303 provides in advancing transparency of federally funded research while also ensuring non-profit publishers continue to have the resources and capacity to peer-review, communicate and distribute such research to the general public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark purple ink that reads "Katherine S. McCarter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katherine McCarter  
Executive Director