
The Ecological Society of America

January 16, 1997

Dear Senator:

As the 105th Congress gets underway, we would like to offer the services of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) in addressing the complex environmental challenges that lie ahead. We realize you will be juggling pressures from many sides and would like to assist you by providing the ecological knowledge necessary for sound management of our natural resources.

Established in 1915, ESA is the nation's premier professional society for ecological scientists. Our 7,500 members from across the country conduct basic and applied ecological research in colleges and universities, federal and state agencies, industries and consulting companies, and conservation organizations. One of our chief goals is to ensure use of the best available science in making sound, sensible regulatory, policy, and management decisions. Specifically, the Ecological Society of America is prepared to assist you by:

- Providing rapid, expert feedback on the scientific aspects of current environmental issues through our Ecological Information Network (attached);
- Bringing briefings to the Hill on the ecological aspects of a particular environmental issue;
- Suggesting experts to provide congressional testimony;
- Supplying scientific background information.

Areas in which ESA can offer scientific information and expertise include:

- Human health issues, including the risks presented by endocrine disrupters and emerging infectious diseases. The connections between disease and environmental change are increasingly evident.
- Restoring ecosystem integrity, especially in wetlands, in South Florida and the Mississippi River floodplain, in streams and rivers of the Pacific Northwest--crucial to salmon fisheries--and in other areas with natural resources at risk.
- Public land management issues, such as sustainable forest management, non-native species control, and grazing.
- Pending legislation, including the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts. In 1996, for example, the Society published a consensus report on the science underlying the Endangered Species Act. In an earlier report, we laid out the scientific considerations involved in wetland delineation.

Please use the attached rolodex card to call upon our Washington, DC headquarters office as a source of unbiased information and professional scientific expertise.



James H. Brown, Ph.D.
President

Sincerely,



Mary C. Barber, Ph.D.
Deputy Executive Director

Attachment

