



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

January 25, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am writing on behalf of the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the nation's largest society of professional ecologists. As a representative of over 10,000 ecological scientists, we ask you to protect the scientific integrity and independence of federal scientists. The scientific enterprise is composed of federal scientists, academia, nonprofit organizations and industry and is critical to keeping America at the forefront in scientific discovery and innovation.

Scientific research – and the free exchange of scientific knowledge, ideas, and data – must be valued and protected. Scientists, including scientists serving in the federal government, must be able to freely conduct their research, communicate their findings, publish their work, and ensure the accuracy of scientific information without fear of retaliation or restriction.

ESA and its members are committed to the integrity and availability of scientific research, and we want to emphasize our belief in the critical importance of the unrestricted sharing of scientific data and findings. Objective scientific findings play a crucial role in addressing a wide range of domestic and international challenges. Scientific knowledge is a critical element of decision-making, and unbiased scientific research is used to inform policies that serve the public interest. Without scientific integrity and independence, our nation would lose the benefits that science provides to the economy, policymaking, technological innovation, and society.

Your administration and Congress have an opportunity to maintain America's leadership and prosperity, develop solutions to the challenges facing our nation, and encourage innovation. In order to realize these accomplishments, which will require scientific knowledge and expertise, it is imperative that the communication of scientific findings be made publicly available, scientific data be independent, and scientific integrity be protected.

Thank you for considering the critical importance of scientific integrity and independence. The Ecological Society of America looks forward to working with you and is available to provide assistance in any way we can.

Sincerely,

David M. Lodge  
President