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Testimony for the Record
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To the House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Regarding the Environmental Protection Agency FY 2018 Budget

May 24, 2017

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency. ESA is the nation's largest professional society of ecologists representing over 10,000 members across the country. We write to urge you to support **robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for FY 2018, specifically at least \$715 million for Science and Technology within EPA.**

The EPA is vital to protecting both the environment and human health, and the agency's Science and Technology programs are critically important to its ability to successfully address environmental problems. Strong investments in the EPA are essential to ensuring the health of our nation's citizens and environment.

EPA Science and Technology Programs Reduce Environmental Risks Facing Americans

Since its formation in 1970, the EPA has reduced environmental risk to Americans, enforced laws safeguarding human health and the environment, and helped the nation serve as a leader in protecting the environment.

Science and Technology funding supports programs and research that contribute to clean air, clean water, sustainable communities, homeland security, and human health. Through the Office of Research and Development (ORD), the EPA conducts cutting-edge research programs, including important ecological research and monitoring, that provide the scientific foundation for the agency's decision-making and other programs. EPA research projects focus on issues of national significance and help to solve complex environmental problems – often with public health implications – with new scientific understanding and technologies. From detecting and addressing harmful algal blooms to helping communities rehabilitate contaminated sites, EPA research funded by Science and Technology appropriations delivers solution-oriented results with broad and significant impacts.

Proposed Cuts Would Have Consequences for Human and Environmental Health

ESA is very concerned with the administration's proposed cuts to the EPA. The president's budget proposal requests only \$5.7 billion for the agency, a reduction of 31 percent from the FY 2017 enacted amount of \$8.1 billion. This significant cut would be achieved by eliminating 3,800 agency jobs and over fifty agency programs, including categorical grant programs and regional environmental programs, climate science research, and partnership programs. The administration's budget also proposes to reduce funding for EPA Science and Technology considerably to only \$451 million, a 36 percent cut from net FY 2017 funding.

ESA is extremely troubled by these proposed changes and the devastating impacts they would have on the agency's ability to fulfill its mission and conduct the scientific research necessary to inform its operations and decisions. We urge you to reject cuts to EPA programs and research as you proceed with FY 2018 appropriations.

Strong Investments in the EPA Protect Our Citizens and Our Ecosystems

The EPA is an essential agency that plays a key role in addressing ecological problems and other environmental issues that affect public health. We appreciate your past support for this critical agency, and we urge you, in the interest of ensuring the health of our nation's citizens and ecosystems, to continue this support and provide **robust funding for the EPA in FY 2018, in particular \$715 million for EPA Science and Technology.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.