



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SHARING INSECT SCIENCE GLOBALLY

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
House Committee on Science, Space, &
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, &
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I write today to thank you both for your inspiring bipartisan leadership and strong commitment to the scientific community demonstrated through H.R. 2225, the National Science Foundation for the Future Act.

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 around 7,000 members affiliated with educational institutions, private industry, and government. Our members include researchers, teachers, administrators, museum collection experts, technicians, students, and hobbyists, to name just some of the breadth of our diversity.

ESA greatly appreciates the tremendous effort made by the staff from both of your offices to connect with stakeholders, solicit input from the community, and identify the most pressing needs and opportunities that fit within the jurisdiction of the excellent work supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF is the only federal agency that supports basic research across all scientific and engineering disciplines outside of the biomedical sciences, and that work remains critical to the future whether in resilience to climate change, sustainable agricultural strategies, public health and wellness, economic growth, or national security. The NSF has been an important leader domestically and globally across the breadth of science and engineering research as well as workforce development, and it is critical that this work continues to be funded, now and into the future.

ESA understands the need nationally to invest in new and cutting-edge technologies to ensure domestic security and competitiveness, but we do not wish to see that come at the expense of foundational research. H.R. 2225 is a strong bill which, if enacted, would help NSF continue to fulfill its mission.

Specifically related to our priorities, ESA greatly appreciates that H.R. 2225 brings attention to the importance of sustained support for biological research collections. Digitization of data is one important part of modernizing collections, but the ongoing development of technology enables us to extract new information from old samples in a way that will never be enough with just images. We also strongly support the important vision for NSF's role in the national response to climate change, which includes



consideration for ecosystem stability. Risks to that pose threats to the life and wellness of all species, including humans. And we appreciate the importance of considering stakeholder input when it comes to the development of open repositories and building on existing resources. Scientific societies like ESA often already house data, code, and software related to scientific publications. It will be essential that NSF designs a thoughtful process to consider the needs of all stakeholders in developing any new policies and incentives to balance the needs of the many parts which make up the research community.

Finally, ESA commends the vision at the heart of H.R. 2225, which is one that prioritizes inclusivity as central to an innovative future. We appreciate the committee's efforts to meaningfully recognize both the importance of continuing to develop our diverse potential talent and workforce as well as the need to maintain global competitiveness and leadership. ESA is pleased to endorse H.R. 2225 as an important step in that direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSSmith', is located below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Michelle S. Smith, BCE
2021 President, Entomological Society of America