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SOCIETY *for the* STUDY of EVOLUTION

21 May 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Haley Stevens, Chair  
Subcommittee on Research and Technology  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1510 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Ranking  
Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Waltz, Ranking  
Member  
Subcommittee on Research and Technology  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, Chairwoman Stevens, and Ranking Member Waltz:

On behalf of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), thank you for the opportunity to endorse the bipartisan H. R. 2225, *The National Science Foundation for the Future Act*. Founded in 1946, SSE is the premier scientific society for evolutionary biologists, with more than 3200 active student and professional members from throughout the US and world. SSE's objectives are the promotion of the study of evolution and the integration of the various fields of science concerned with evolution.

SSE strongly supports bipartisan efforts to bolster investment in foundational science, including via NSF's broad mission to support biological and environmental research, research infrastructure, and scientific education and training. *The National Science Foundation for the Future Act* proposes essential new investments in this mission, including a doubling of NSF's budget over the next five years. SSE particularly supports the attention to sustained funding for building and maintaining biological research collections, which are crucial for documenting biodiversity patterns over time and for research in evolutionary biology. SSE also strongly supports the bill's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) provisions to broaden access to research opportunities in underserved communities, and its provision to expand the Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Early and dedicated investment in developing scientific talent, from across a breadth of communities, is essential for sustaining our scientific excellence into the future.

Enhancing support for scientific discovery and innovation is critical for our ability to address multiple global challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including mitigating the effects of climate change, expanding agricultural capacity, and predicting and planning for pandemics and other disease outbreaks. The study of evolution provides the foundational knowledge essential for rapid and effective scientific responses to these challenges, and as such, the Society for the Study of Evolution looks forward to helping to build capacity for excellence in scientific research in the decades ahead. We appreciate your leadership in putting forward this legislation, which would help ensure that the National Science Foundation is able to support growth in scientific discovery and innovation in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Delph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping tail.

Lynda Delph  
President, Society for the Study of Evolution