



December 21, 2016

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Office of the President-elect
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Congressman Zinke,

I write today on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, to offer you any and all assistance in accessing the scientific resources and technological know-how that you may need as Secretary of Interior to address the country's most pressing challenges.

As Secretary, you will be leading a Department that can benefit tremendously from the outcomes of scientific research and input from scientists and engineers across a range of fields. We encourage you to appoint leading scientists and engineers to key posts on your team to ensure you have timely scientific and technical input on the important policy decisions you will face.

For example, scientific research on human behavior can yield important insights for informing effective management of park resources, and the National Parks are unique locations for hosting researchers to advance conservation science that can be used to inform stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Department of Interior funded research and development, largely through the work of the U.S. Geological Survey, is crucial to our understanding and management of the nation's natural resources and can help guide policy and business decisions throughout the nation.

The AAAS counts more than 100,000 members across every science and engineering discipline. We have a suite of programs focused on areas where science intersects society – from environmental stewardship to education to diplomacy, and more. We publish high-quality research in our *Science* family of journals. The U.S. scientific community and the AAAS, in particular, are American assets at your disposal.

We look forward to working with you and your team at the Department of Interior to ensure that you are able to draw on high quality scientific evidence to craft policies that best serve the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rush Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Executive Publisher, *Science* Family of Journals