



January 12, 2017

Mr. Wilbur Ross
Office of the President-elect
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Ross,

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 Commerce to address the country's most pressing challenges.

In a real sense, the Department of Commerce is a research agency. 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. Also, your Department contributes greatly to the progress of science through support of intramural and extramural research. 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.

Department of Commerce funded research and development is essential to predicting and mitigating severe weather, advancing innovative manufacturing approaches, and advancing the frontiers of computing and cybersecurity, primarily through the National Institutes of Standards and Technology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These efforts are crucial to ensuring the U.S. has an innovative and robustly growing economy.

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 research competitiveness 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 Commerce 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, flowing style.

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

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