



December 15, 2016

Dr. Ben Carson  
Office of the President-elect  
1800 F St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Carson,

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 Housing and Urban Development 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. Just as biomedical research has paved the way for groundbreaking new methods for treating patients and producing healthier outcomes, social science research can provide valuable insights into race, gender, education and economic trends for individuals and families living in urban, rural, and suburban settings. Scientists also analyze the impact of local, state and federal housing policies to help guide future policy changes for the betterment of all. In the past, AAAS members have worked closely with HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research on various projects, and many have contributed to National Academy of Sciences reports commissioned by the agency. Basing policy decisions on scientific evidence – rigorously obtained and thoroughly tested – is essential for assessing what works, what doesn't, and what options are most likely to achieve their desired outcomes.

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 human rights and the law to education to diplomacy, and more. We publish high-quality research in our *Science* family of journals. The U.S. scientific community writ large, 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 Housing and Urban Development 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

**American Association for the Advancement of Science**  
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA

Tel: 202 326 6600 Fax: 202 289 4950

[www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)