



January 3, 2017

Ms. Elaine Chao
Office of the President-elect
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Chao,

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 Transportation 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.

The Department of Transportation supports research and development that is focused on strengthening our nation's infrastructure, and making transportation safer and more efficient, whether by automobile, railcar, or airplane. With a burgeoning commercial space flight sector and the potential growth of self-driving cars and airborne drones, evidence-based transportation policies that support innovation while ensuring safety and accountability have the potential to unleash rapid economic growth and improved quality of life for the nation. 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 national security 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 Transportation 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