



December 15, 2016

General James Mattis  
Office of the President-elect  
1800 F St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear General Mattis,

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 Defense to address the country's most pressing challenges.

As Secretary, you will be leading a Department that benefits tremendously from the outcomes of scientific research and input from scientists and engineers across a range of fields. The military's scientific and engineering research portfolio provides a strong foundation to support national security, from social and behavioral science research to combat terrorism, to mathematical research to enhance our cybersecurity, to materials science research for developing the next generation of lightweight armor. As the single largest federal funder of scientific research and development, the Department of Defense is strongly positioned to advance the frontiers of knowledge as you work to defend our 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 national security 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 Defense 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