



January 19, 2017

Governor Sonny Perdue  
Office of the President-elect  
1800 F St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Gov. Perdue,

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 Agriculture 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.

Department of Agriculture funded research and development programs inform national food, nutrition, rural development, and land management policies that impact the lives of each and every American. High quality agricultural research, including that funded by the Department, can bring innovative solutions to problems that affect millions of Americans. Research decades ago on the sex life of the screwworm fly, for example, led to a novel pest control technique we use today to combat everything from invasive fruit flies in California to the mosquitos that transmit devastating diseases like Zika. Bringing insights from scientific research to bear on U.S. agriculture issues has the potential to make life safer and more prosperous for all.

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 Agriculture 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