



December 21, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Office of the President-elect
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Senator Sessions,

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 Attorney General of the United States to address the country's most pressing challenges.

As Attorney General, 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.

Forensic science is a crucial tool in the Justice Department's work, but as you are no doubt aware, there have been many recent reports, including a comprehensive review by the National Academy of Sciences in 2009, demonstrating that there are significant gaps in the research and validation of some of the most promising techniques. The Department's National Institute of Justice will play a crucial role in supporting research to fill these gaps and strengthen our justice system for all Americans.

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 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 Justice 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